

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## London Dockers speak out against racists

TO FELLOW TRADE UNIONISTS AS trade unionists we would like, through the pages of your newspaper, to make known our views on the National Front and why trade unionists should organise to fight against them.

Their immigration policies are racist and racism is anti-trade unionism. The working class suffered from poor housing services, poor hospital services and poor schooling long before any coloured immigrant came to Britain. But the National Front imply that all these problems are due to coloured immigrants.

During the 1930s, for instance, these problems were far worse than they are now and people similar to the National Front—to name one, Oswald Mosley—were blaming the misery and poverty of the working class on Jewish immigrants, and before that it was Irish immigrants.

The National Front also profess to be a party of law and order even though some of their leading members have been convicted for carrying firearms.

### Opposition

During the early 1930s in Germany, the Nazi Party professed to be a party of law and order and believers in democracy, not unlike the National Front in Britain today. But when the Nazi Party felt strong enough they resorted to the true beliefs of fascists everywhere—the violent destruction of any opposition be they Jews, trade unionists, socialists or communists.

We as trade unionists will do everything in our power to make sure that the fascist National Front does not grow in Britain in the 1970s as the Nazis did in Germany in the 1930s.

Len Alexander (TGWU 1/35), Charlie Alexander (NASD4), Kevin Ashby (TGWU 1/37), Harry Brown (TGWU 1/550), Tony Bamfield (TGWU 1/6), Colin Coughlin (NASD 1), Jimmy Clark (TGWU 1/6), Morrie Day (TGWU 1/6), Dickie Desmond (TGWU 01/100), Eddie Doggett (NASD 3), Tony Delaney (TGWU 1/6), Billy Dukelow (NASD 6), Jimmy Evans (NASD 6), Dave Emanuel (NASD 5), Micky Fenn (NASD 6), Morrie Foley (TGWU 1/37), Joe Frost (TGWU 1/37), Teddy Gates (TGWU 1/6), Billy Gates (TGWU 1/6), John Garrett (TGWU 1/6), Barry Holmes (TGWU), Brian Holmes (TGWU 1/37), Bill Hooper (TGWU), Kevin Hussey (NASD 1), Eddie Howard (TGWU 1/106), Ronnie Jarvis (NASD 4), Patsy Johnson (TGWU 1/6), Ted Jones (TGWU 1/6), Bill Knight (TGWU 1/6).

Roy Lane (NASD 5), Bob Light (TGWU 1/6), John Lear (TGWU 18/55), Bernie Lynch (NASD 3), Joe Marks (NASD 4), Johnnie May (NASD 1), Tommy Mould (NASD 8), Frank Miles (NASD), Bob Moore (TGWU 1/6).

Mossie Nicholls (NASD 1), Ian Olley (TGWU 1/37), Alan Phillips (NASD 6), Terry Perry (TGWU), Johnnie Piner (NASD 1), Eddie Prevost (TGWU 1/6), Ron Saddington (NASD 8), Jim Spencer (NASD 6), George Scott (TGWU 1/6), Con Sullivan (NASD 3), Derek Sills (TGWU 1/40).

Johnnie Sullivan (TGWU), Frank Sugden (TGWU 1/37), Jazzer Thomson (TGWU 1/35), Dave Timothy (NASD 3A), Vic Turner (TGWU 1/37), Pete Turner (TGWU 1/6), Micky Tudor (NASD 3), Derek Watkins (NASD 11A), Alan Williams (NASD 4), Dave Wood (TGWU 1/37), Graham Thackham (TGWU 1/37).

### London Docks.

(Copies of this letter have been sent to the TGWU Record, Morning Star, Socialist Worker, Tribune, Workers Press, the Newham Recorder, Stratford Express and the East London Advertiser.)

THEY CHEAT YOU ALL YEAR— BUT THEY CAN'T CHEAT YOU OUT OF YOUR HOLIDAYS



THEY CHEAT YOU ALL YEAR— BUT THEY CAN'T CHEAT YOU OUT OF YOUR HOLIDAYS



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THEY CHEAT YOU ALL YEAR.



# Holidays fraud: Part of the package

A HUNDRED THOUSAND people were done out of their holidays—and their money—last week.

Their package tour had a large hole in it. They had been robbed, robbed by directors who had gone on taking money long after they stopped being able to deliver the goods.

Everyone agrees the Court Line affair is a scandal—but who's to blame?

The press made it clear. It's Wedgwood Benn, again.

It's true enough that the Labour government behaved scandalously. Not because they 'interfered in free enterprise'. They didn't interfere enough.

They interfered enough to make the holidaymakers reckon they were going to get their sun-tans. But not enough to save their holidays.

Court Line had problems—so what did Labour do? Take over the ship-building division while the rest tottered on into bankruptcy. They should have taken over the whole lot, guaranteed the jobs, guaranteed the holidays—and told the directors to forget any ideas of compensation.

But the way the Tories talk you'd think they'd taken the ride with the holidaymakers. Instead they took the holidaymakers for a ride.

**FACT:** When Heath was Prime Minister his parliamentary private secretary was Timothy Kitson, director of a Court Line company—A and P Appledore International.

**FACT:** Court Line have been regular donors to the Tory Party. Are the Tories going to give this money to those who've lost their holiday money?

### Erected

**FACT:** Lord Boyd Carpenter is head of the Civil Aviation Authority and an ex-Tory minister. He knew about the company's impending collapse. But he let it go on taking money from holidaymakers.

And for a long time Court Line was a 'triumph of free enterprise' to all those Tories. Now they're trying to cover up their part in this affair and what it says about the house of cards they and their big business friends have erected.

One Edward Posey is running for cover at top speed. He's a Court Line director. He's got a four-storey home in Hampstead, complete with a new £25,000 extension. The £10,000 he's made from his shareholding probably helped to pay the builders.

Maybe he won't be around to appreciate it. He's gone off to 'an unknown destination'. He's cancelled the milk till late September.

People like holidays to get away from it all. But you're got away by the same crooks who rob you the rest of the year round. And they're in trouble. Court Line has sunk—and it won't be the last company to go over the horizon this year.

### The holiday is over.

For the Tories, for big business—and for the Bennis of this world, who talk big to us, and pay big to them.



THIS is the way to do it—members of the North West Platform, the busmen's rank and file group, leafletting their brother busmen at Silverman Hall, Nelson, Lancashire, on Sunday.

Their leaflet called on the busmen to give full support to the Asian busmen who were on strike demanding the

re-instatement of a victimised colleague. The leaflet insisted that the men should have no truck with the racist poison spread about in rumours inspired by the management.

Full story—page 14.

Picture: John Sturrock (Report).

### ALL OUT AGAINST NATIONAL FRONT!

Assemble Spinney Hill Park, Highfields at 12.30 for open air meeting followed by mass demonstration through Leicester

(Demonstration supported by Leicester AUEW district committee, Leicester No 16, No 17, Central and Wigston No 2 AUEW branches, NUPE Leicester Hospitals branch and the Bentley Group shop stewards.)

### THE FIGHT AGAINST RACIALISM

Chairman: Jim Torlton (Leicester AUEW district committee, in personal capacity)

Speakers: Darshana Bhogilal Tomkinson and Paul Foot

Saturday 24 August, 8pm, AUEW Rooms, Vaughan Way, Town Centre.

Plenty of time for discussion.

**THIS SATURDAY, IN LEICESTER**

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# Phoney war over state takeover

A WEEK is a long time in politics, Harold Wilson once said. A year is long enough, he evidently believes, for all programmes and policies to be forgotten.

The brave promises to take over the 25 largest manufacturing companies, the bold reference in Labour's Programme 1973 to 'our fundamental commitment to attack structural inequality in ownership'—all that was a long time ago, nearly one year to be exact.

What now is left of Labour's nationalisation plans? A National Enterprise Board to buy shares in companies, the nationalisation of the bankrupt shipbuilding industry, of the airframe industry which is totally dependent on state orders anyway and promises about building land and North Sea oil. That plus nationalisation of ports, most of which are publicly owned already.

Even if these plans are carried out in full—and it is a very big 'if' in view of Labour's record—the 'structural inequality in ownership' will not be altered by one jot or tittle. Appropriately enough, shipbuilding shares rose on the Stock Exchange when the government published its plans! The shareholders would have to be bought out.

## Closures

What the plans amount to is a series of state-capitalist measures to prop up the weaker sectors of British industry. The most important proposal is the National Enterprise Board. About it The Economist shrewdly commented: 'It is plain what the board's function is meant to be. There is a lot of talk about it being involved with profitable businesses but its main role will be to buy up ailing companies . . .'

So why all the fuss? Why all the right-wing hullabaloo about 'state grabs'? After all, as the Financial Times pointed out: 'It was a Conservative government which introduced the Industry Act, 1972, whose sweeping powers of intervention form the basis for much of Labour's proposals.'

Partly it is a simple case of electioneering. The Tories are desperately short of election issues. Their problem is that the policy differences between them and Harold Wilson are paper thin. So a phoney war on nationalisation is a god-send for them.

## Danger

But there is also something much more serious involved. Big business wants, indeed needs, state support and state money. But it doesn't want too much publicity about it. Above all, it doesn't want the idea of nationalisation to catch on with workers threatened by closures. That could really lead to unwelcome state takeovers. The Economist spells it out clearly.

'The danger of the National Enterprise Board may come when next year's slump causes some big firms (perhaps like British Leyland) to issue mass redundancy notices to workers, who will then respond with sit-ins and occupations, demanding that their jobs be saved by takeovers by the NEB.'

'If the Board obliges, every one of the more than one million workers who seem likely to be sacked in the winter of 1975-76 will then take very seriously the idea of a sit-in providing the best hope of saving his job. The point is important, because social strains during next year's slump are what the next election will be really about.'

Exactly. Nationalisation will then become a real class issue. The Labour government's feeble, watered-down schemes are no threat to capitalism in themselves. But the idea of 'nationalise to save the jobs' is a different matter altogether. That is a real threat to big business. Socialist Worker is 100 per cent in favour of it.

# PANIC IN HIGH PLACES

COULD British Leyland follow Court Line down the drain? Are some of the big financial institutions on the verge of collapse? Just how many companies will go bust in the developing slump? And which ones?

Questions like these are behind the jitters that have taken share values down to a new low. The Financial Times share index dipped below 200 on Monday, down 14 points in five days and 50 points over the year. Just over two years ago it stood at 534.

There has been nothing like this since 1929. But what makes big business and the city speculators take such a gloomy view of the future is the differences between then and now.

First inflation. Output is already more or less stagnant all over the world. Yet instead of falling, prices move inexorably upwards. It used to be taken for granted that even a mild recession would stabilise prices and that a slump would send them plunging sharply down.

## BOOM

Not any more. The growth of great monopolies and multinationals, the overwhelming economic weight of the state and the existence of

powerful unions have changed the rules of the capitalist game.

What is going to happen is that inflation will continue through the slump and the next boom will see an inflation move up to the 25 to 35 per cent a year bracket. And that is a level which really undermines 'social contracts' and the like.

No wonder the big businessmen are gloomy. They can see no easy way out. From stagflation through slumpflation to superflation. That is the prospect.

If they could smash the unions, force through massive 'rationalisation' regardless of redundancies, repress working-class resistance with rubber bullets or with real ones, then maybe the system could be stabilised again. Maybe.

The prospects and desirability of a military takeover in Britain are being seriously discussed in the 'quality' newspapers. It is a measure of the desperation of our ruling class that sections of it should be willing even to discuss the overthrow of a political set-up which has served them so well for so long. And it is a serious warning to the working-class movement.

Capitalism is sick, incurably sick, and in its struggles to keep alive it threatens to destroy the gains working people have made over many years.

Jobs are threatened. Living standards are threatened. Collective bargaining and, in the longer term, the very existence of trade unions are threatened. The reformist methods of the past will not save them.

Everyone knows that the outlook is stormy. Everyone except, apparently, the trade union and Labour Party leaders.

## CONTRACT

The TUC General Council offers bromides. 'The General Council believes that much progress has been made in implementing the social contract . . .', says its report to Congress. 'The General Council are confident that the further development of the social contract set out in this report will commend itself . . . and so enable the government to proceed with progressive policies in the industrial, economic and social fields.'

An earthquake is coming and they congratulate themselves about the paint on the woodwork. The Labour Party leaders sing the same song. They are so stupefied with reformist ideas that they cannot see beyond the ends of their noses.

Those who can have to fight to win the working-class movement to realistic policies.

- Occupy the plants when closure threatens.
- Nationalise to save the jobs.
- 30 per cent across the board wage rises.
- No 'social con-trick' fraud.
- A planned economy under workers' control.

But British capitalism cannot afford these things it is said. Right. Then it must be overthrown and replaced by a system that can provide a decent life for working people. And the defence of jobs and living standards is the start of the fight for socialism.



Protest against terror—and the face of terror. Thousands of Cypriots demonstrated outside the Turkish Embassy in London against the Turkish Army's invasion of Cyprus. As they did so Turkish armed forces moved on across the island, leaving devastation behind them. The smaller photograph shows a victim of Turkish napalm bombing.

There are no 'clean' military operations. Napalm, supplied by the United States dropped from fighter bombers, also supplied by the United States, does its murderous work—on behalf of the United States . . .

# Junta to pay £100m to US copper firm

THE military junta in Chile has now announced the terms of their agreement to pay off the American Anaconda Copper Company for the mines nationalised by the Allende government.

Anaconda is to get a total of 235.2 million dollars (£100 million) for its Chuquibambilla and El Salvador mines, 65 million dollars (£27 million) in cash and the rest in six monthly instalments. This massive amount of money will require a great deal of extra sweat from Chilean miners to pay it off. The junta hope to lay this on at the point of a gun.

This magnificent hand-out to the American copper bosses was negotiated by the junta's faithful servant Emilio Philippi, publisher of one of the earliest hymns of praise to the junta.

The payment of compensation is an article of faith for the generals and their regime. It shows that while they butcher and torture their opponents, they are law-abiding gentlemen. They do not in any way interfere with the inviolable rights of property owners.

The weekend before the copper deal was announced, the junta's police again showed their devotion

to duty.

In Santiago (population three million) more than 10,000 people were arrested in the greatest police swoop in Chilean history.

The police/military authorities indicated that 5874 people were lifted 'for breaches of the law', 3259 'for drunkenness', 731 for breaking the curfew and 822 'for other offences.'

According to an official junta press statement a whole series of such operations were being carried out 'to repress a wave of delinquency that the government attributed to a group of extremists and delin-

quents who set out to create problems.'

Unfortunately it seems the extremists and delinquents who set out to create problems just will not go away. Indeed it seems they are greatly encouraged by every act of support and solidarity in other countries, including such moves as the International Transport Workers' Federation 48-hour blacking on all trade with Chile, announced this week.

News of resistance activities earlier this year is beginning to filter through. On the night of 30 April textile workers in the Bellavista

## Demonstrate for Chile

Solidarity with the Chilean resistance—demonstrate, Sunday 15 September, 1pm, Speakers Corner and march to Trafalgar Square, Central London.

In Scotland a demonstration over the anniversary of the coup in Chile has been called by the Chile Solidarity Campaign in Glasgow on 14 September. Backing has been received from the Scottish TUC, Rolls-Royce shop stewards, the Scottish area of the TGWU and Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee, and Paisley Trades Councils.

It is vital that all trade unionists and

socialists should attend these demonstrations, not only to protest against the murder of thousands of Chilean trade unionists and revolutionaries, but also to support the magnificent solidarity blacking of goods to Chile by workers in Yarrows and Rolls-Royce and by Rosyth dockers. All trade unionists and socialists should push in their shop stewards committees and trade union branches for official support.

All Scottish IS branches must attend with banners. Assemble 10.30am, Blythswood Square, Glasgow.

Toma factory in Concepcion occupied the plant to celebrate May Day. The military tried to stop the demonstration but were unsuccessful.

On May Day itself an agreement was reached. The workers were to abandon the factory peacefully—in return for an agreement that the soldiers would not conduct reprisals.

On 2 May the true value of this agreement was revealed. 25 workers were arrested. The rest of the workers replied with a strike which they kept solid until the arrested workers were released the next day.

On 30 May the underground store of the biggest single textile factory in Chile, Yarrur S'A, was set on fire. This factory was seized by the workers when Allende was in power and the workers there put up some of the toughest armed resistance to the coup when it came.

The junta handed the plant back to its previous owner, Amadeo Yarrur, last December. He and his friends have since instituted their own regime of brutal repression and persecution in the factory. The fire in the stores was by way of a reprisal from workers who have organised themselves into secret committees of resistance.

## WHAT WE THINK

# Double-dealing over Cyprus

THE British press expressed more sorrow over the shooting of the American ambassador to Cyprus than over all the other casualties of the Cyprus war. Yet hundreds of people have been killed by bullets, bombs and napalm, tens of thousands have been driven from their homes. And those who weep most over the death of the ambassador are those most responsible for this.

For the past fortnight the British and American governments have been talking of a 'peaceful solution' to the Cyprus problem. Foreign Secretary James Callaghan has been making fine speeches in Geneva. US Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger has been threatening still more 'peace initiatives'. Yet it is the rulers of Britain and the US who above all have been responsible for the growth of the national hatreds that have led to the Cyprus war.

Britain ran Cyprus as a colony for 80 years. Successive British governments, Tory, Liberal and Labour, used physical repression to prevent moves by the local people to win independence. In the 1930s and again in the 1950s they arrested hundreds of people without trial.

But they also always used another device to maintain their grip: the old tactic of divide and rule. They would try to turn the Greek Cypriot majority against the Turkish Cypriot minority and vice versa by giving privileges first to one and then to the other.

## The CIA moves in

Cyprus finally achieved independence in 1960. But the British authorities were able to carve out of the island two large 'British base areas' and to ensure that British business continued to dominate the Cyprus economy.

This arrangement suited Britain's rulers down to the ground. But the Americans were not nearly as happy. For although Britain, Greece and Turkey were all part of NATO, Cyprus was not and the US could not have its own military base there. There is considerable evidence that the US intelligence agency, the CIA, then took up the tactic of divide and rule previously pioneered by the British.

It encouraged right-wing nationalist forces among both the Greek and Turkish Cypriots, aiming to replace a united, independent Cyprus with a Cyprus divided between the NATO powers, Greece and Turkey which would have been available as a NATO base. So people like Nikos Sampson, leader of the recent coup, were encouraged to launch murderous attacks against the Turkish Cypriot population in 1963. Greek and Turkish Cypriot workers and peasants, who had previously lived alongside each other, with some history of common struggle for improved conditions, were separated off in mutually hostile enclaves.

Meanwhile, in Greece and Turkey, the Americans had backed right-wing military regimes that imprisoned and tortured their opponents wholesale—and helped hide their crimes by bouts of sabre-rattling over Cyprus.

But the British and Americans have found they have created monsters they cannot fully control. The Greek junta, to cover up its inability to solve Greece's problems, attempted to seize power in Cyprus through the Sampson coup. The Turkish Prime Minister, Bulent Ecevit, decided to show himself more nationalistic than his right-wing generals by invading the island. His success has first forced the junta in Greece to hand over power to right-wing civilian politicians, and is now forcing these politicians to denounce the US and NATO.

## Weapon supplies

Meanwhile, the ordinary workers and peasants of Cyprus have seen their lives' hopes crumble. After being terrorised by the Greek-run National Guard, they are now being terrorised by the Turkish army.

But it is not these deaths which worry the British and American governments. They have sat back and watched first the Greek junta, then the Turkish army seize control of the island, each using weapons supplied by them through NATO. Despite their crocodile tears, they have made no attempt to stop the flow of these weapons.

Their own fear now is that instead of their manoeuvres leading Cyprus to become part of NATO, it is producing pressures for Greece to leave. In Cyprus itself, instead of a partition of the island between similar right-wing nationalist regimes, there could be a long period of instability, with continual guerrilla fighting against the Turkish troops.

The likelihood is that, now that the Turks have conquered most of the island, the British and American governments will now try to pressurise the Turks into giving some ground to the Greeks, so as to restore stability and get Greece into NATO.

Having fanned the flames of hatred between Greeks and Turks for years, the NATO powers cannot now act to solve the island's problems. Socialists must continue to call for the unity of Greek and Turkish workers, and support the resistance to the partition of Cyprus. We must demand all foreign troops out of Cyprus, including British troops, and that the Labour government give no support to the right-wing rulers of Greece or Turkey.



Police disperse demonstrators outside the prison, where they were protesting at the soft treatment of Caetano's former secret police torturers.

# Portugal's police kill demonstrator

ONE person was killed and four seriously injured when police fired on left wing demonstrators in Lisbon last Thursday.

The fascist government that used to rule Portugal was overthrown by a military coup at the end of April. In the days which followed, mass demonstrations on the streets forced the army to arrest members of the notorious secret police, the PIDE, and strikes in the factories drove out fascist managers.

The government now running the country is made up of representatives of the Armed Forces Movement which organised the coup and of the three main political parties—the Communist Party, the Socialist Party and the middle of the road PPD.

But it has become clear that real power remains with army officers who want to maintain capitalism in Portugal. The result has been growing

repression.

The climax of this was the shooting last week of the demonstrators, who were demanding immediate independence for Portugal's most profitable colony, Angola. Their demonstration was banned jointly by the Cabinet, which includes 'left-wing' ministers, and the armed forces. When it went ahead, the police and the military police attacked it in the Rossio Square, in the centre of Lisbon.

Three days earlier the police had excelled themselves by beating up demonstrators, including young children, outside the prison where the former members of the secret police are held. These ex-thugs had been allowed to take up a section of the prison and demand greater freedom, without any action being taken against them. In anger thousands of people demonstrated against this—and were attacked by police.

Such attacks on demonstrators

have been accompanied by attempts to limit the spread of left-wing ideas through the press. Three weeks ago the three main Lisbon evening papers were suspended, allegedly for publishing alarmist news about the situation in Angola or for mentioning a demonstration for independence for the colonies called by the Maoist organisation, the MRPP.

But newspaper workers and two weekly papers, Expresso and Sempre Fixe, demonstrated solidarity with the suspended papers and the only weekly paper published was the Communist Party paper Avanti. Under this pressure, the armed forces relented and lifted the suspensions.

## Strength

But they still insisted that 'ideological aggression' against the armed forces was illegal and they banned the MRPP paper, Luta Popular. The Mozambique paper Journal de Beira has been fined nearly £3000 for implying that the head of the military junta, President Spínola, was not sincere in promising independence to the colonies.

The left-wing political parties have attempted to give the impression that they are not fully in favour of all these repressive measures. Yet they remain in the government with the military and have made no effort to organise the mass of the population against the power of the police and the officers in the armed forces.

Indeed the Communist Party seems intent on doing the police's job for them. An MRPP demonstration for press freedom in Oporto last week was attacked by men with iron bars who boasted that they were Communist Party members.

After the coup in April, the Portuguese ruling class found it difficult to use repressive measures, such as the strength of popular feeling. But now it seems to be slowly recovering confidence as the left-wing parties sit with its representatives in the government and tell their members to keep things quiet.

This was the policy followed with such catastrophic results by the left-wing parties in Chile before the coup there last September. Last week the policy produced its first victim in Portugal.

The International Socialists last Friday sent telegrams to Portuguese revolutionary organisations: 'Protest at the murder of anti-imperialist demonstrator and offer solidarity to victims of repression.' IS also took the initiative in calling for a token picket of protest of the Portuguese Embassy in London on Tuesday evening.

# RETURN OF THE B-SPECIALS

From Eamonn McCann in Derry

FAR right-wing Protestant leaders here are going ahead with the formation of a 'Third Force' despite Northern Ireland Secretary Merlyn Reece's insistence that no 'security' organisation other than the army and the police will be recognised. Already thousands of men have been enrolled and recruiting meetings are continuing in Protestant areas.

Head of the new group is William Green, chairman of the Ex-B Specials Association, close associate of William Craig and personal friend of the National Front's Northern Ireland organiser Lindsey Mason.

Craig and Ian Paisley have made it clear they want nothing less than a return of one-party Unionist rule and the smashing once and for all of the Catholic aspiration towards a united Ireland. They see the Third Force—armed and outside Westminster control—as the instrument for achieving this.

They have been encouraged by

the hesitancy of Reece's reaction, who said he 'disapproves' of the recruitment campaign but has refused, even verbally, to condemn it outright. Reece, said one Protestant leader contemptuously, 'is only playing with words'.

## CERTAIN

Part of the motivation for the new force is a desire by middle-class leaders such as Craig to take the initiative away from existing Protestant mass organisations—such as the para-military Ulster Defence Association and the Ulster Workers' Council which led the anti-power sharing strike in June.

Not that there is any deep conflict between Craig's aims and the stated aims of the UDA and the UWC. But neither is controlled by the established politicians. Craig and Paisley want to be absolutely certain that the Protestant masses are in their grip when and if civil war breaks out here.

Meanwhile army harassment of Catholic working-class areas is as relentless as ever. The Labour government is systematically disarming the Catholic community while backing off before the right wing threat.

NEXT WEEK Eamonn McCann will analyse the support being given to the Third Force by Protestants in Northern Ireland.

All troops out of Cyprus  
No partition  
Finsbury Park 1S  
Public Meeting  
Speakers: Chris Harman  
and George Gionis  
Friday 23 August, 8pm  
Co-op Hall, 129 Seven Sisters Road,  
London N4

# LETTERS



Workers on the track at a British Leyland factory. 110 decibels is one of the fringe benefits . . .

## Noise report? Sorry we can't hear you...

FOLLOWING a study of The Hazards of Work, by Pat Kinnersley (Pluto Press), a number of Shop Stewards in the West Works, British Leyland, Longbridge, Birmingham held a meeting with the industrial engineers and management. It was with a view to claiming maximum relaxation allowances because of the extremely high noise levels within their respective area.

Management replied that a proper noise survey would have to be carried out before their demands were met. Unbeknown to the stewards, however, a survey had already been carried out, registering noise levels of 110 decibels, and a report had been made.

This piece of news slipped out during the conversation. Upon being,

pressed to show this report, management replied that it was confidential and rather technical, and that laymen reading same would jump to the wrong conclusions (shades of Watergate!!).

In short, the information could prove dangerous. They were assured that they would be allowed to see the *future* report however. Hastily, management changed the impact tool (the source of the noise) for another, hoping that this would give a lower register.

The survey was then taken, but before the results were made known, the works doctor summoned the stewards to his consulting room, and told them that their fears were groundless.

He was evasive, and unable to

convince them that *no* damage to the operator's ear-drums had been sustained. He declared that a noise policy could not be implemented due to staff shortages. This at a time when Austin/Morris are compiling redundancy lists!

West Works management then stated that the latter survey now revealed a decrease from 110 decibels to that of 109 decibels, but refused them access to the report once more, maintaining that they alone decided what information should be conveyed to the shop-

floor.

The section workers are united in pressing for an immediate noise policy to be implemented, and state that they will no longer be deflected by their 'lords and masters'.

Their chance of success may be severely hampered if other shop stewards throughout the works fail to follow their initiative. Hazardous working conditions must not be accepted as part and parcel of our working life at Longbridge.-CAR WORKER (Name and address supplied)

KEEP IT! . . . A word of advice for those who'd like to see the end of Womens Voice, the International Socialist women's paper. Unless we change the attitude of 'Is your husband home? No—well I'll come back another day, could you take his Socialist Worker for him?' it will be impossible for the International Socialists to get to lots of women. Many women see Socialist Worker as a man's paper and never read it. That's where Womens Voice comes in to show that these women are not left untapped . . . We must keep Womens Voice, sell and use it.-MARTHA OSAMOR, North London.

EXPLETIVE DELETED . . . My letter sent into Socialist Worker (3 August) giving my reasons for scrapping Womens Voice was cut and never gave any of my reasons. In reply to Lesley Smith's postal point (17 August) she would have known had my full letter been printed that it is not only my opinion but the opinion of working class women in our district. Could she tell me if she means the working class revolution or the womens revolution when she said 'be careful with our revolution'.-ROD MacFIE, Kirkby.

A FREE COMMERCIAL . . . I would like to make your readers aware of the existence of the excellent monthly magazine, Labour Research. It's packed full of information, statistics on company profits and inequality in Britain . . . It costs 20 pence an issue and its address is Labour Research Department, 78 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8HF (01-928 3649). If asked they'll give you special information on your own firm if you need it.-ALAN BEARD, Glasgow.

HINTS . . . I wish you would publish more maps with foreign articles. Many of us rely on Socialist Worker to learn and don't carry an atlas around . . . You should have more in on the ecological question . . . You might stress that capitalism is by its nature anti-ecological . . . The point is not that the Earth's goodies are nearly exhausted, which they aren't, but that the easily get-atable ones are either exhausted or nearly so with marked consequences on our lives.-KEN HARDING, London NW3.

TOO LONG . . . In my opinion the letter from Patrick Long (10 August) should not have been printed. What it amounted to was an eloquent conservative statement by a preaching and practising conservative, and its prominence on the Letters page could well have confused some comrades . . . Patrick Long would not dream of extending the facilities at his disposal (the Evening News) to provide a platform for revolutionaries. It is a waste of space to provide him with an extension to the excessively large platform which he currently enjoys.-JOHN PRANCE, Epping Green.

**HELIOS PRIETO**  
**CHILE: THE GORILLAS**  
**ARE AMONGST US**  
Translated and introduced by Mike Gonzales



In this implacable attack on Allende's government of Popular Unity, Prieto shows clearly the dangers of not preparing the people for successful resistance to counter-revolution.

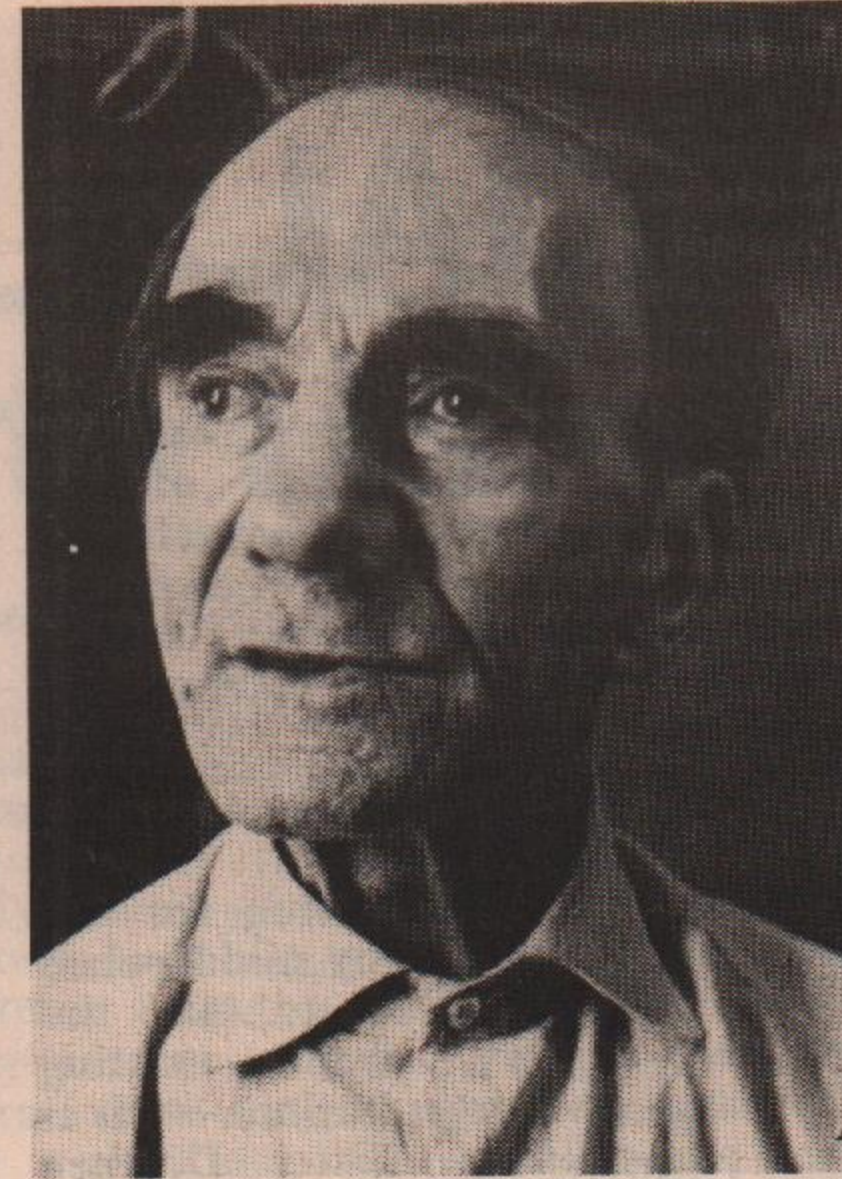
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THANKS for the eloquent and fraternal review of Steven Hicks's book of poems. The Boxer Speaks (17 August) and the excellent article on him in Socialist Worker. Readers might like to know that Steven is a senior member of a group of East London working class poets called The Basement Writers. We meet in the basement of Poplar Town Hall in Cable Street E1 on Tuesday evenings, starting 3 September. We have just published two books of poems by young East Enders. Up The Docks by Alan Gilbey and Never Had It So Good by Tony Harcup which can be ordered by post from us (price 5p and 15p respectively) at The Basement, Community Art Workshop, Town Hall, Cable Street, E1.-CHRIS SEARLE.



## Colonel bites nurses?

CAN YOU IMAGINE a picket line of nurses, many of whom take home less than £20 a week, being attacked and intimidated by a 'para-military' group of wealthy businessmen and retired colonels?

This is what General Sir Walter Walker wants to be the 'solution' to the strikes in Britain. His Unison group is a sign that the wealthy middle-class are afraid—afraid that they will have to share the country's wealth with those who produce that wealth, ie the working class.

It is not a case of trade unionists being hoodwinked by anarchists or bought off with Moscow gold: the fact is that trade unionists are sick of having to go on strike to keep up with the cost of living. It's no fun when you're on a few pounds a week strike pay (and you can't claim Social Security if you're single). Unfortunately we can't all just grant ourselves a £28 a week rise like the MPs have just done, or make a cool £5 million by wheeling and dealing on the profits of other people's labour like Sir Denys Flowerdew Lawson has done.

Certainly working people are being used for political ends—but it is for the ends of Sir Walter, Sir Denys and friends who want to keep things just as they are—they on top, living off the workers.-JOHN BELL, Newcastle.

## Betaprofit

ANY READERS who purchase their bread cakes and confectionary from Betabake Mobile shop type vans will (or perhaps will not) be aware that the prices of these commodities tends to be a little high especially at the end of the week.

The reason for this is as follows. The accounting system used by Betabake is too complicated to explain to all the employees except for one simple fact, if the correct prices are charged for goods then at the end of the week the total revenue which a salesman hands in during the week will be below the desired target figure.

That figure comes from head office which has records of all goods put into the van and the price of each. If a new lad comes along then his first few weeks will result in a 'deficit'. Then he is told of the cure, overcharging. Unfortunately for him if he does not overcharge enough his 'deficit' will be deducted from his wages, if he cannot rectify the 'loss' by making a surplus in the following week.

However, if a thumping surplus is made then the logic does not come into operation. The salesman only receives a part of it in commission. The rest is swallowed up by guess who . . .

Betabake is probably not the only bakery to operate in this manner as it is owned by one huge company who owns nearly every bakery in the country. The only escape is to bake your own bread. Betabake made what was described as their biggest ever profit in the last year—ANDREW CULYER, Suffolk.

Please keep your letters as short as possible, type them if you can, don't worry if you can't. But write on one side of the paper only, and space them wide so we can read them! Address them to LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. All letters must be signed—but specify if you don't want your name published.

# These new 'solitary' jails could be for you



The liberal who hasn't noticed . . . Labour Home Secretary Roy Jenkins.

ON THE LAST day of Parliament about three weeks ago, the Home Secretary announced that four 'open' prisons and two 'open' borstals were to be closed down. Britain pioneered the 'open' system.

Prisons are, at best, in all countries as Solzhenitsyn points out, unpleasant places, but in British 'open' prisons prisoners escape the worst of the degradation, humiliation, and repression associated with imprisonment and are allowed to preserve a degree of human dignity. Many other countries tried to imitate our open system, with little success.

Now the open system is being dismantled, but not for the reasons given by the Home Secretary, that parole and alternatives to imprisonment were now making open prisons unnecessary. Indeed, Roy Jenkins, forgetfully, omitted to publicise another development within the prison system of this country.

As open prisons are being done away with, 'special control units' are being set up. The first of these are in Wakefield and Wormwood Scrubs. They are secure units in which selected prisoners will be held for long periods in solitary confinement. This is a new development in our prison system. No-one now alive can remember solitary confinement as something which was authorised in our prisons. It is a wholly new development.

Let it be said that decisions of this kind are not made by Home Secretaries. They simply sign and authorise the decisions already made by Civil Service mandarins. The decision to close these six open prisons was made a year before the new administration was formed. Tory ministers had refused over and over again to authorise the decision.

When the Labour administration was formed, the mandarins were insistent in getting their decision authorised. Neither Roy Jenkins nor Shirley Williams were aware of the significance of their decisions. I suspect that they are also unaware of the existence of special control units—or the significance of them.

Who will be the prisoners put into solitary confinement in these special control units? The official Home Office document which gives information about them makes it clear that they will be 'troublemakers' who organise other prisoners into any kind of protest or demonstration, however peaceful.

## Population

We surely do not need Solzhenitsyn to remind us that the penal establishment is a political establishment. The working classes form 95 per cent of the prison population. Prison is a means by which the ruling classes deal with the working classes in any country.

The 'troublemakers' who are

identified by the Home Office are not right-wingers or fascists. There is no point in fascists rebelling against fascists. The troublemakers for whom the special control units have been prepared are the 'lefties' so hated by the Home Office and by prison staff.

The special control units are places where anyone, no matter how reasonable his protest, who organises others against repression, humiliation, and degradation of human beings, will be 'conditioned' into acceptance of authority.

## Civilised

It was Winston Churchill, of all people, who, while Home Secretary, pointed out that the penal system of any country was a measure of its civilisation. Developments in our penal system, the dismantling of open prisons, the setting up of special control units and the use of internment without trial show that our country is becoming less civilised.

We must beware. When prisons are sick, society is sick, and we don't have to read The Gulag Archipelago to know this. We need only look at what is happening in Britain.

I enclose £5 for your Fighting Fund. I dare not give my name. I am an employee of the Prison Department of the Home Office.—'S', (Prison Officer).

## I'm not voting Labour

OF THE TWO Tory parties in Britain at the moment (that of Heath and the one of Wilson) it would be much more convenient so far as the workers are concerned for Heath to be in office. Better by far the enemy they could readily recognise to be in power rather than a camouflaged friend.

Labour won the last election, of course, so there are obviously a lot of people who are still naive enough to believe that the Labour Party really is the party of the working class.

How they reconcile this with the fact that they have not remained in power continuously since their first victory in 1924 is something of a mystery. Surely a truly representative working-class party would have perpetuated itself in office indefinitely?

The Labour politicians' stock reply to this, of course, has always been that Labour has never had enough time in office to fully carry out its socialist policies.

The plain fact is, that the Labour Party has always been dominated by pharisaical intellectuals to the exclusion of the dialecticians, and consequence has had no socialist policies worthy of the name.—A B, Bolton.

# LABOUR... OR FASCISM?

I'M GLAD that Robert Briggs drew attention to the sayings of Baroness Stocks (3 August) and I think they shouldn't be treated lightly. This ex-Labour peeress has openly called for a military dictatorship, because she says Harold Wilson has put himself too much in the power of the trade unions!

This statement has been followed up by radio interviews with General Sir Walter Walker, a former chief

of NATO Northern Europe, who proposes to form what amounts to an army of storm troopers to keep the working class in order. Don't say it can't happen here—most Germans thought Adolf Hitler a clown in 1930. They didn't in 1933.

So, while I sympathise with those who are so disgusted with the performance of the Labour government that they 'vow' they will on no account vote Labour again, I think that de-

cision would be a mistake.

A Labour government is more open to working class pressure than a Tory one would be. If the Tories had been returned to full power at the last election they could have taken drastic anti-working class measures.

Even a 'moderate' Labour government would give us a chance to close the ranks. Fascist dictatorship would not: I think we are in danger of fascist dictatorship.—KATHLEEN JONES, Shrewsbury.



## WHAT WE STAND FOR

THE International Socialists are a revolutionary socialist organisation open to all who accept our main principles and who are willing to work to achieve them. These principles are:

### INDEPENDENT WORKING-CLASS ACTION

We believe that socialism can only be achieved by the independent action of the working class.

### REVOLUTION NOT REFORMISM

We believe in overthrowing capitalism, not patching it up or gradually trying to change it. We therefore support all struggles of workers against capitalism and fight to break the hold of reformist ideas and leaders.

### THE CAPITALIST STATE

The state machine is a weapon of capitalist class rule and therefore must be smashed. The present parliament, army, police and judges cannot simply be taken over and used by the working class. There is, therefore, no parliamentary road to socialism. The working-class revolution needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state, based on councils of workplace delegates.

### WORK IN THE MASS ORGANISATIONS OF THE WORKING CLASS

We believe in working in the mass organisations of the working class, particularly the trade unions, and fighting for rank and file control of them.

### INTERNATIONALISM

We are internationalists. We practise and campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries, oppose racialism and imperialism, and fully support the struggles of all oppressed peoples. We are opposed to all immigration controls.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country. Revolution is defeated by isolation. Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist but state capitalist. We support the workers' struggle in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

### THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party, and all the activity of the International Socialists is directed to the building of such a party by fighting for a programme of political and industrial demands that can strengthen the self-confidence, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.

## WE ARE

For rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all full-time officials. No secret negotiations. All settlements to be voted on by mass meetings.

For 100 per cent trade unionism. Against all victimisations and blacklisting. Against anti-trade union laws or curbs on the right to strike and on effective picketing.

Against productivity or efficiency deals. Against any form of incomes policy under capitalism.

Against unemployment, redundancies and lay-offs. Instead we demand five days work or five days pay, and the 35-hour week. For nationalisation without compensation under workers' control.

For militant trade union unity, joint shop stewards committees at plant and combine level.

For the building of a national rank and file movement which will fight for these policies in the trade union movement.

Against racialism and police victimisation of black people. Against all immigration controls. For the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Against all forms of imperialism, including Russian imperialism.

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

For the building of a mass workers' revolutionary party, organised in the workplaces, which can lead the working class to power, and for the building of a revolutionary socialist international.

## International Socialists



If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information, or would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to: The International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Trade Union \_\_\_\_\_

# Why you should march against the National Front in Leicester

## LEICESTER WORKERS TALK ABOUT THEIR TOWN AND ITS PROBLEMS

FRANK SMITH, chairman of the GEC Whetstone branch of TASS, staff convener at GEC Gas Turbines and member of the TASS No 16 Divisional Council:

'A good deal of the responsibility for the situation in Leicester lies with the local paper, the Leicester Mercury, part of the Associated Newspapers group.

'Whenever there's a court case which involved a black person, they really highlight it. And when the Ugandan Asians came, the local paper really led a hue and cry. Now the Ugandan Asians have been here some two years and no one can say their lives are any different than before.

'The Mercury has a very select letters page. If you send a letter saying all unofficial strikers should be hanged, they'll print it. If you argue an opposite case, you'll find it's censored.

'They did a hatchet job on Countesthorpe School. This was a hotbed of anarchy, apparently, because the kids called the teachers by their first names.'

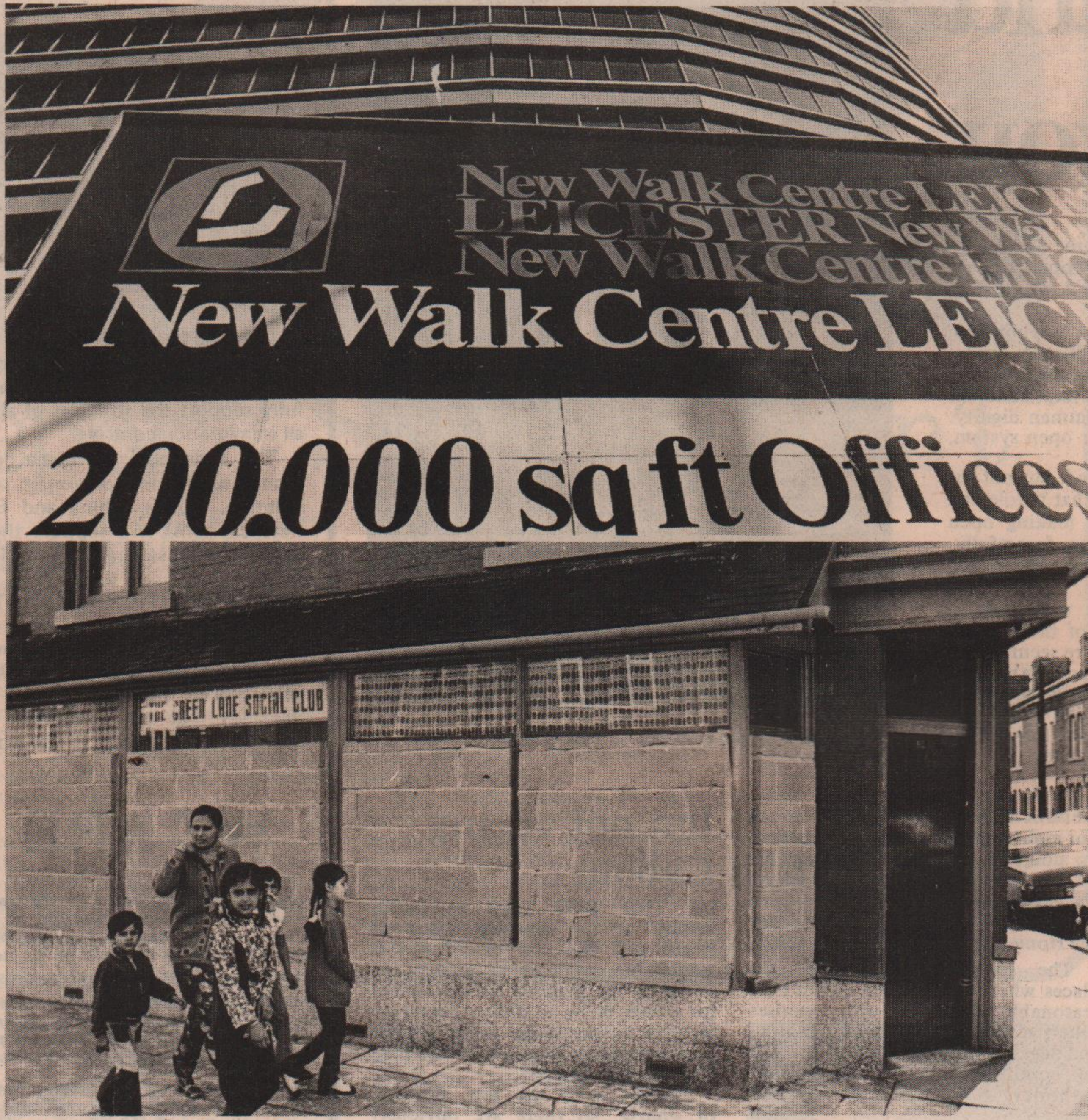
OLLIE MATHER, engineering worker in the Bentley Group, president of Leicester No 16 branch AUEW:

'There was a housing problem long before the Asians came. And the truth is there would still be one if the National Front and Co had their way and all Asians were expelled from this country.'

## PRIORITY

'The reason for this is that it isn't immigrants, be they Asian, Scots, Irish or what have you, who cause the housing shortage. There's been bad housing and a shortage of housing for most working class people for as long as anyone can remember. And that's because houses for people like us aren't profitable enough. So they're not a priority.

'It really makes me laugh some-



Photographs by John Sturrock, Report

times when you hear the nonsense people come out with in support of racist ideas. They talk about the Asians being different in terms like 'Don't the bay leaves smell funny.' Well maybe they do. But have you ever breathed in a street full of boiling cabbage?

'In the present situation we must not lose any opportunity to get among the Asian workers—get to know them and get them to strengthen the trade union movement. This way we can all move forward together.'

BILL PUGH, secretary of the Leicester No 16 branch AUEW:

'People's minds get clogged up with all sorts of rubbish. Here in Leicester you get a lot of talk about how this was once the most prosperous city in Europe, though God knows there were poor people aplenty in those supposedly golden days.

'Over recent years you hear people talk about how Highfields, for example, has been dragged downhill. Highfields used to be a snob area but they got out. They found

it more profitable to let their houses as flats to West Indians, Asians and other workers.

'Then of course the landlords, the people who have sent the place downhill, start talking about how the blacks are driving the place into rack and ruin.

'This is the sort of rubbish that prejudice feeds on. It feeds because people never stop, think and ask themselves why anyone should improve a house if it's rented from some private landlord at an extortionate rent.'

JOE MORGAN, NUPE convener at Leicester General Hospital.

'The responsibility for the housing shortage in Leicester and elsewhere rests fairly and squarely on the shoulders of the profiteers and property speculators.'

## EMPTY

'There is more than a million square feet of empty office space in this town. Yet the Labour-controlled council has granted planning permission for another two million.

'The speculators obviously make more profit from keeping office blocks empty than they do from building houses for working-class people.

'The point is to get rid of a system where the priorities are

30,000 Leicester families live in houses without their own inside lavatory, hot water or bath. The profiteers demolish even more houses to build millions of square feet of offices. Yet the Leicester Mercury and the racials blame Asian workers for the city's problems. As a result this multi-racial club has had to brick its windows up.

profits, not people and their needs. The National Front and such like are a deadly menace to those who want to live a decent life and build a decent society. They are out to split and divide us and must be defeated.'

PAUL ANDERSON AUEW shop steward at Wilet Mellor Bromley, Aylestone Road, and a member of the International Socialists.

'The most foul thing about racialism is that it prevents you ever getting to know black people. It seals you in and isolates you. It also makes it difficult for anyone to argue with you.

'One thing I point out when I'm arguing is the terrible path the logic takes you down. The National Front say they want to re-patriate Asians AND West Indians. So suppose they got power. There's no guarantee these people would have anywhere to be sent back to. So what would the National Front do then—build gas chambers?

## TOGETHER

'I know about racialism. About eight years ago I thought that AIMS the National Front's predecessor in Leicester, was a great thing. It was thoughtless and stupid, but I felt I was rebelling.

'But when I went to work I got interested in the union. I started to learn that we all have to stand together if we are to get anywhere.'

JIM TORLTON, Economics Stampings worker and member of the International Socialists who moved a successful resolution that the Leicester AUEW District Committee support the anti-National Front march in Leicester this Saturday.

'Everybody should be aware that the National Front is led by ex-NAZIS. They should be aware that the racials are out to divide us, white worker against black worker and get us fighting among ourselves.

'The best strategy the employers have ever devised is divide and rule. In this the National Front are their allies. Which is why every trade unionist should be organising against them.

'Racialism is part of the system which gives some massive wealth and gives the many poverty and insecurity. To get rid of racialism we are going to have to get rid of the system. And to get rid of the system we are going to have to get rid of racialism.'

## NEXT WEEK

The story Leicester would rather hide: The Transport Workers Union and the Imperial Typewriters' dispute.

**NATIONAL FRONT**  
the new nazis

**organise against them**

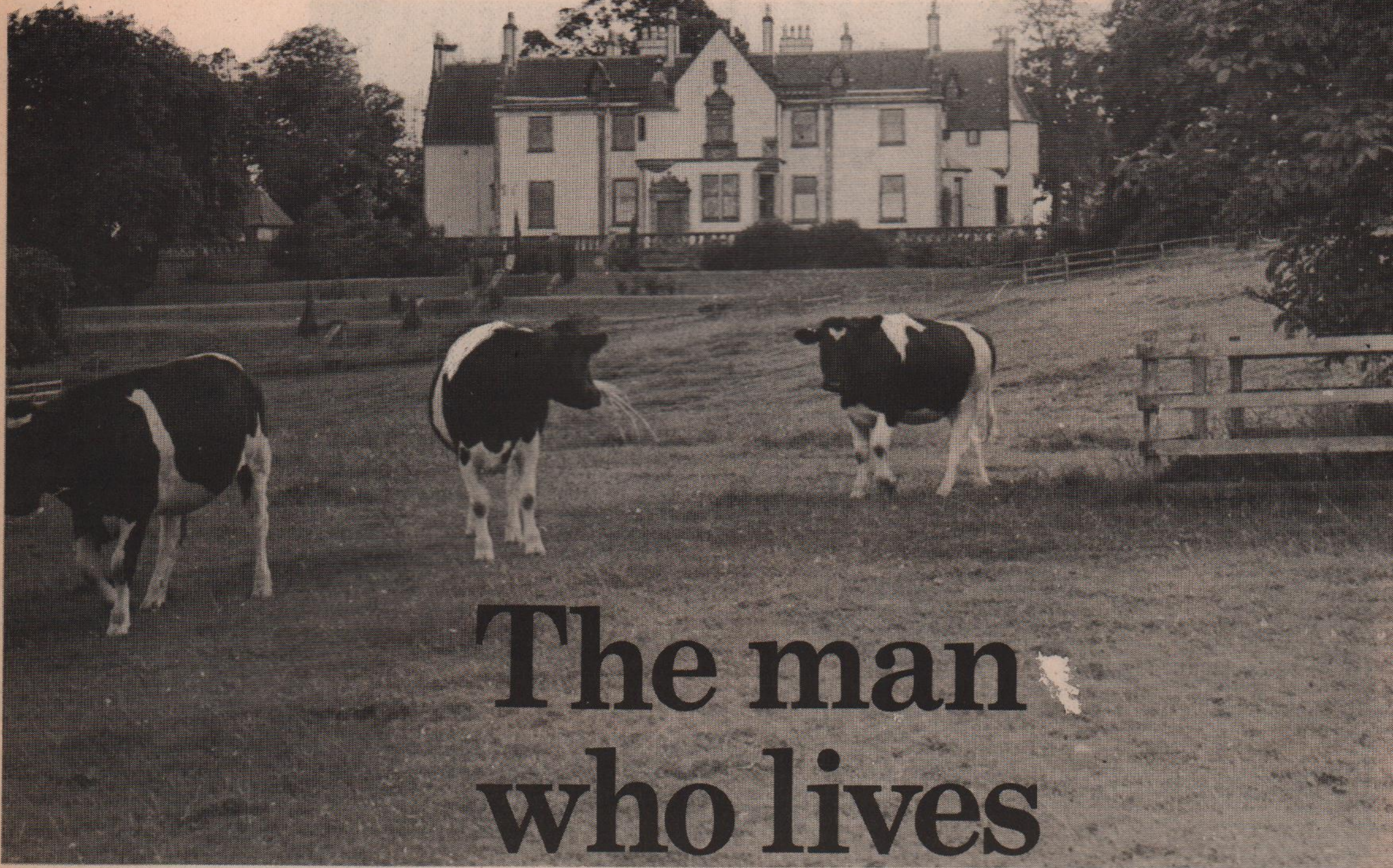
Socialist Worker pamphlet  
**OUT NOW**

The National Front are trying to build a base from which, using the same methods as Hitler, they can take on and destroy the organisations of the working class.

They must be stopped.

This pamphlet is a start, and a weapon to be used by all Socialist Worker readers to show that only the struggle for socialism can destroy once and for all fascism and the system that breeds it.

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# The cost of running Ford

IN 1966 Robert Winter-Berger paid 500 dollars to an acquaintance for an introduction to Gerald Ford, with a further 500 dollars when the introduction proved fruitful.

Ford was then leader of the minority Republican Party in the House of Representatives. Now he is President of the United States.

Winter-Berger had just started his career as a Washington 'lobbyist', one of the men whose job is to keep the money from big companies and combines flowing into the campaign coffers of both major American parties, and the profitable contracts and concessions flowing back.

In 1969 things in Washington got too hot for Winter-Berger. He quit the business, and wrote a book about his activities called *The Washington Pay-Off*. Its cast of thousands includes LBJ, the Kennedys, Rose Mary Woods, Kissinger, Nixon . . . and Gerald Ford.

Here is some of what Winter-Berger has to say about Ford:

**1** On 22 January 1968 Ford was named a director of the Old Kent Bank and Trust Company of Grand Rapids, the largest bank in his constituency. He had to buy 100 shares of his bank's stock at 33 dollars a share—but the money was lent to him by the bank's director, Richard M Gillett. His 'salary'—for attending four board meetings a year—started off at 1000 dollars a year.

## Dollars

Faced with growing criticism, he resigned from the board in late 1968. But he hung on to the shares.

**2** In the 1970 election, the most Ford was allowed under Michigan law to spend on his campaign was 10,500 dollars. After he won the election, however, the Republican Congressional Boosters Committee—a party central fund to which Ford had contributed heavily—and two other similar funds sent cheques totalling 12,233 dollars to his constituency to cover bills run up by groups called 'Latvians for Ford' and 'Veterans for Ford', plus bills at a printers and advertising agency.

Ford disclaimed all knowledge of these bills, and so leapt clear through a loophole in the 1925 Corrupt Practices Act, which makes a candidate responsible only for spending that he personally knows about.

When Winter-Berger asked Ford what he did with excess donations to his own campaign funds, Ford explained that using central funds as a clearing-house was the best solution—and fully legal!

**3** In 1968 Francis Kellogg, president and large stockholder of New York's International Mining Company, decided he wanted to 'retire'. Or rather, since he enjoyed the big-game hunting from his African ranch, he wanted to become the US Ambassador to an African country.

He'd just given 30,000 dollars of his immense unearned wealth to the New York State Republican Campaign. He then approached Winter-Berger, who channelled another 30,000 dollars of Kellogg's money through Ford to a national campaign fund.

When Winter-Berger expressed doubt about the nature of this particular 'job', Ford replied: 'Don't let it bother you . . . Money is the name of the game. Without it, you're dead.'

Kellogg later had to pay 65,000 dollars more to Waller Taylor, a Nixon 'aide', and in February 1971 he was made a special assistant to the Secretary of State for Refugee and Migration Affairs, with a special ambassadorial title. His huge investment had paid off.

Helena Cobban

# The man who lives above the shop

QUOTE of the week, if not the century, must be the series of moving statements from multi-millionaire Scots shipbuilding Czar Sir William Lithgow in his letter to last Friday's Times.

The good Sir William, known for his boundless wealth and boundless hatred of even the most elementary forms of trade unionism, was bewailing the fate of modern Britain, where mere people like coal miners were no longer on their knees.

After this sorry tale of national decay, Sir William went on record against the 'concentration of power at the centre', an interesting exercise in hypocrisy since he and his family have been

concentrating power (and wealth) at their centre for decades.

Then he announced that Scottish nationalism—to which he seems about to be converted, probably by fellow tycoon Sir Hugh Fraser—was a reaction to this disturbing feature of British life, which threatens to take his shipyard from him.

But Sir William really saved himself for the

following statement, 'I write as an old-fashioned manufacturer who still, metaphorically speaking, lives above the shop.'

Socialist Worker is proud to show where Sir William lives in reality rather than in metaphor—in his mansion in its massive grounds at Drums, Langbank, Renfrewshire, where you can neither see nor smell nor hear a shipyard.

## ROAD TO WIGAN BIER

WHO decides about the health of the people in Wigan? The local authority, I hear you say. Or the regional health authority, or perhaps the town's MP.

Wrong each time. The answer is Len Gibson, a property speculator and estate agent whose main concern is to make money from buying and selling land.

Everyone, even the town's Labour MP, whose name is Fitch, agrees that the conditions in the Wigan General Hospital are disgusting. Laundry has to be stored in kitchens and screens

in the toilets, of which there are far too few.

Everyone is pressing for a new district general hospital—including Len Gibson, who has offered the regional health authority the likeliest piece of land for the hospital—at Roundmoor, Standish. Should the health authority buy the land, Gibson will enrich himself hugely from its inflated price.

But if not, he will soon get over his grief. For he has recently bought the Notre Dame High School at

Standishgate, which he originally intended to knock down and replace with offices. Now he has a better idea. Why should he bother with the costs of demolition and rebuilding when the school could, for a much smaller sum, be converted into a profitable private hospital?

He told the Wigan Observer that 'a highly-respected figure in the local medical world' had asked him to consider the idea.

No doubt this highly-respected figure pointed out that the state of the Health Service in Wigan was so desperate that anyone who could possibly afford it would prefer to pay for private treatment.

The delay in replacing Wigan General Hospital would add to the prospect of profit at the Notre Dame. So while nurses, hospital workers and patients all lose out, Len Gibson wins each way.



*I NOTICE there seems to be more and more money around for the men and women who govern Cuba, most of whom make good speeches on the subject of equality.*

*The Cuban Embassy in London, for instance, has bought a house for £250,000 which it plans to convert into a school for the sons and daughters of embassy staff. The mansion—in exclusive St John's Wood—compares strikingly with the rundown building which has been rented by the embassy as a school up to now, in Wandsworth.*

*The Cuban plan is being opposed, incidentally, by some very rich people in St John's Wood, such as Sir Desmond Plummer, former Tory leader of the Greater London Council.*

## Police make a shot in dark

NURSES at the newly-built Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital in Exeter have had to put up with more than the usual misery of long hours and low wages recently. They could not sleep at nights because of the constant firing of guns at the Wyvern Army Barracks at Wonford, Exeter, which is near the nurses' wing. Over the summer the ranges at the barracks have been used, not merely during the day, which nurses have got used to with difficulty, but also during the night.

Much publicity in the local press and a deputation from nurses and hospital officials to the barracks forced the army to reschedule their firing times.

That, it seemed, was the end of the matter. Then someone spilled the beans. Perhaps it was an angry army man who felt that the army was being unfairly blamed for the firing.

At any rate, the local press was forced to reveal that the firing hadn't come from the army at all. It had come from local policemen who were being trained in the use of sophisticated modern weaponry.

Police from all over the West

Country had been selected to go to an intensive small arms course run by the crackshots of the army's Small Arms School Corps from Warminster, Wiltshire.

The training is no ordinary shooting practice. The policemen are taught to fire under conditions which, the army thinks, might be relevant to 'counter-insurgency operations'.

## Hush-hush

For instance they are pushed into rooms filled with CS gas and made to fire at targets through the gas. This interesting exercise came adrift last week. According to the Exeter Express and Echo: 'One police officer on a recent course had to be pulled out of the chamber after gas leaked through his mask.'

I can't discover—everyone is being very hush-hush—whether this sort of thing goes on all over the country. No one will tell me, either, whether the operation has anything to do with the presence at Exeter University of Major-General Richard Clutterbuck, one of the country's leading experts in counter-insurgency.



What International Socialists have written

END OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ROAD, by Ian Birchall and Chris Harman  
 THE PARLIAMENTARY ROADERS AND THE CHILE DEFEAT, by Chris Harman  
 THE WORKERS' STRUGGLE UNDER ALLENDE, by Luis Angel Fernandez Hermana  
 Articles in three previous issues of International Socialism journal—numbers 62, 63 and 66.  
 55p for the three, or 20p each, including postage, from IS JOURNAL, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

# Their Health S

Pamphlets produced by the International Socialists:

**The Struggle for Workers' Power**, by Roger Rosewell, 10p

**Can Socialism come through parliament**, by Roger Kline, 10p

**Workers against racism**, by Paul Foot, 10p

**Women fight back**, by Kath Ennis, 10p

**Trotsky**, by Duncan Hallas, 5p

**Lenin**, by Jim Higgins, 5p

**The Meaning of Marxism**, by Duncan Hallas, 25p. **Study Guide to The Meaning of Marxism**, by Richard Kuper, 10p

**The Politics of Lenin**, by Paul Ginsborg, 20p

**Russia: How the revolution was lost**, by Chris Harman, 15p

**THE WORKING CLASS AND THE NATIONAL QUESTION**, newly published by the Socialist Workers Movement attempts a clear Marxist answer to problems relating to the National Question in Ireland. 10p

From Marxists in Medicine, the research and study group of the London Health Students Branch of the Communist Party, **TAKE A PILL . . .** (20p) shows the inability of a privately-owned drug industry to cope with the health needs of the population. Also **THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE IN ENGLAND AND WALES**, by Julian Tudor Hart (12p)

**THE CLASS STRUGGLE**, by Kautsky, written in 1892, reviews the rise of capitalism, the nature of socialism and the strategy of the German Social Democrats in the class struggle. £1

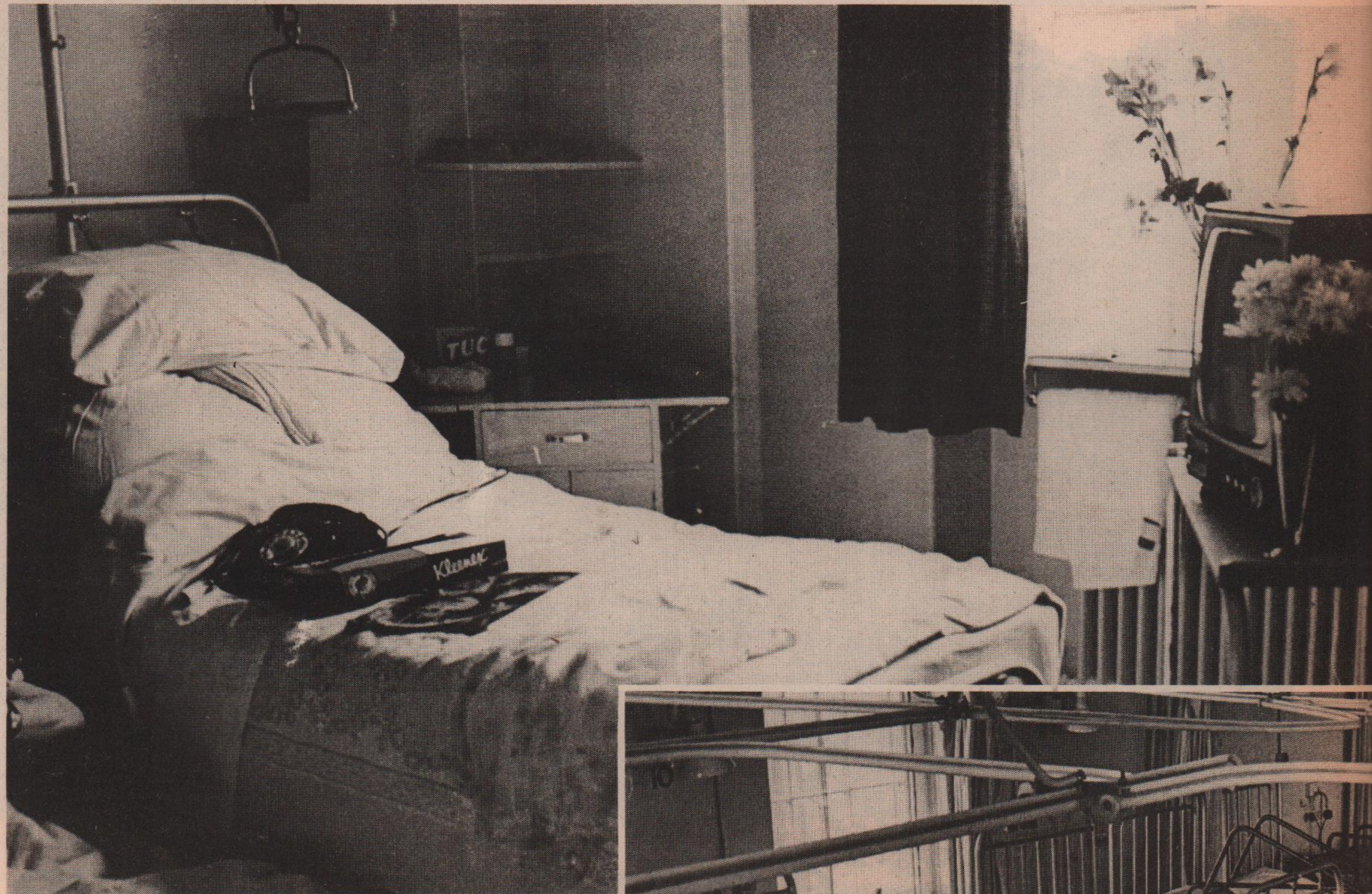
**A WORKERS ENQUIRY** by Karl Marx. 100 questions aimed at drawing out the class consciousness of workers and illustrating the meaning of socialism. 12p

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**DIRECT FROM:** IS Books, 265, Seven Sisters Road, London, N4; 64 Queen Street, Glasgow, C1; 224, Deritend High Street, Birmingham; 14 Grange Road, Middlesbrough; the Socialist and Trade Union Centre, 65 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry; and Angle Books, 4 Roseangle, Dundee.



THE past few months have been unprecedented for the Health Service. Last year we saw the first major strike by hospital ancillary workers. Then the cudgels were taken up again by nurses, by tradition and intent unorganised and non-militant.

Nurses have entered a new era. Never again will their profession be bedevilled with complacency.

The nurses' fight inspired other health workers to take similar action—radiographers, technicians and physiotherapists, all demanding improved wages and conditions. But they were not only concerned with wages, but also with the crisis in the Health Service. If action is not taken now the NHS will collapse and it is vital that not only health workers but all trade unionists fight for its preservation and improvement.

What began as a wages issue has developed into a class issue. Consider the ban on private patients, imposed in hospitals throughout the country.

Nye Bevan created the NHS in 1948 in the face of considerable opposition from the hierarchy in the medical profession, who saw it as an attack on their source of income. They refused to cooperate with the scheme. So, to appease the consultants, it was agreed they could be only part-time employees of the NHS, giving them time for their profitable private practice.

## Crying

But these cunning characters realised that the Health Service they deplored so much could in fact prove useful. For years they have used the beds, equipment and manpower provided for the NHS out of public funds to get rich quick.

Now the poor, deprived consultants are crying into their brandy and trying to convince us how they couldn't make ends meet if we took away their private patients—they should try living on the average wage of a less privileged hospital worker!

## HOSPITAL WORKERS ARE FIGHTING FOR YOUR HEALTH

by Sally Jones NUPE

They say they are defending people's freedom of choice. WE know, of course, that there is freedom of choice only for the wealthy who can dangle fat cheques under the noses of the consultants.

There is evidence that consultants 'tout' for fee-paying patients by deliberately keeping their waiting lists long, then telling people they can get treatment quicker by paying for it.

If the consultants wish to use the 'freedom of choice' argument they should not get so upset when we exercise the same right. We choose NOT to handle private patients—and they raise their hands in horror, declaring that we are irresponsible and are endangering the lives of sick people.

And how much care have these consultants when they threaten to abandon the NHS when it seemed their 'back-handers' were being taken away. The Consultants Association has talked of setting up a private health scheme separate from the NHS, presumably intending to build their own clinics and hospitals and train their own staff. This would be impossible in practice simply because of the enormous cost.

The chief problem of the NHS is that the government spends nowhere near enough money on it

to meet people's needs. More money must be put in to improve the pay and conditions of health workers, to build many more hospitals, to improve existing buildings and to improve the service to the public;

## Short

One way of raising the money would be to nationalise the drug companies, which make vast and increasing profits off the back of the Health Service. Even the last Tory government was forced to admit the immorality of such a situation—yet did nothing to change it.

Tony Barber, when Chancellor of the Exchequer slashed the throat of the Health Service by cutting spending by £11 million. This was devastating on a service already grossly short of cash.

This penny-pinching attitude shows in the poor pay of health workers, leading to a shortage of workers which in turn leaves too few people to do too much work. So the service to the patient deteriorates and long waiting lists result. 508,000 people in England alone were waiting for hospital beds in December last year.

People have the illusion that when they go into hospital they will receive the best of attention

and treatment. Many hospitals are failing to provide even the lowest acceptable level of care. Wards of 50 and 60 patients are common in long-stay chronic sick and geriatric hospitals and hospitals for the mentally subnormal. Often there are only two nurses attending to those 50 or 60 patients

Florence Nightingale said that 'the hospitals should not harm the patient.' We agree.

## Eliminate

Then there's the problem of 'Lump' labour. Private agencies are employing nurses and other hospital staff, trained at tax-payers' expense, and hiring them out to hospitals at considerably higher rates of pay than those employed directly—and of course at considerable profit to the agencies. We demand the abolition of these agencies and insist that all health workers receive wages good enough to eliminate the attraction of high pay the agencies provide.

Alan Fisher, general secretary, of NUPE, and other trade union leaders are in danger of losing credibility in the eyes of the members. They have abdicated all responsibility hiding away in their ivory towers and emerging only to pour scorn and criticism on the actions of the rank and file,

obviously from a minority point of view.

Workers no longer be interested union that a governn Tory, attempting working class inevitably feel the united labour me

It is the duti unionist to de Labour governm election promise that Harold Wils conscious yes-m in power, defend they found so in Opposition.

The magnific miners at the b year demonstrat organised work they brought do ernment.

Health Servic long reluctant t cause of the na have been force under the existin of things it is improvements w The whole labour unite to bring t ruction of the and the creatio society.





## WHY MUST WE BE A CUT BELOW THE REST?

SHOPWORKERS are among the most exploited members of the working class. I am a hairdresser. Last week the lads at work calculated that we made enough in the week's two slack days, Monday and Tuesday, for the company to pay our wages. The rest of the week, the three and a half busy days, we worked for the company for nothing.

No wonder that they have been able to expand to a chain of 11 salons in the past few years.

Conditions for us, as for many other shopworkers, have not improved for 50 years. The salon where I did my apprenticeship boasted a staffroom about the size of four telephone boxes for 18 staff.

It contained an airing cupboard which was constantly full of steaming towels. Sandwiches left in the room in the morning were uneatable by lunchtime.

Conditions in the shop itself were little better. There were no windows and the artificial lighting was so bad that several of the girls found their eyesight had deteriorated so much they had to buy glasses.

We have to work a five and a half day week. The half day off is usually taken during the week and is very little comfort. In Wigan, where I work now, I get half day on a Wednesday. The town is closed on Wednesday afternoon.

Wages for all shopworkers are appalling. Many of the big stores pay their workers poor wages, but because most are part-time there is little organised opposition.

In hairdressing we have so-called 'apprenticeships' which are really a way of getting cheap labour. I was earning only £4 a week until I was 18.

### PROCESS

Hairdressing continues to attract women workers in particular because it is one of the few trades that provides apprenticeships for women. The glamour of hairdressing often blinds you to just how exploited you are.

Management attitudes have a strong influence. Workers in hairdressing are always in close contact with management, often on first name terms. This makes it easy for management to inspire a 'let's all pull together' atmosphere.

This process was inflicted on me before I had any experience of trade unions or even knew what a shop steward was. Many of my fellow workers still have no idea about unions.

The trouble is that we work in small isolated workplaces. A hairdresser often won't speak to another hairdresser from the shop across the road because they see them as management see them—as competitors, not as fellow workers with the same interests.

Shopworkers have to learn their potential strength and unity. Already things are changing. The largest store in Wigan was recently dragged screaming into the 20th century when some of its workers joined the Transport Workers Union.

But much has yet to be done. I would like to contact other shopworkers with a view to getting together an organisation which can pool the experiences and successes of shopworkers, and begin to get shopworkers out of their position of inferiority in the working class.

One last point. Hairdressing is a con. Every woman who walks into a hairdresser's is being conned. A gallon of perm lotion costs less than £1. Hairdressers charge anything from £3 to £9 for using two ounces on your hair.

If you wish to get in touch with Phil write to him c/o 115 Diggle Street, Wigan, Lancashire.

**Phil Robert**

# How to survive on strike

SOME women are happy because their husbands work in non-militant factories and are never on strike.

They may not have to deal with strikes but they have to put up with low wages instead. If you live on £12 per week then you might as well be on strike anyway.

My initiation to strikes came seven or eight years ago when my husband worked at Ford's. It was our first strike and a complete disaster as far as I was concerned. I had no idea how to manage.

The sudden drop in the money really frightened me. I tried to carry on paying my bills as usual which left me no money for food. Then I had to put a rope around my neck getting food on tick.

One day I went into a shop and heard a neighbour telling another how Ford workers were overpaid, earning £50-£60 a week. She said

they were getting £30 a week on strike. I was struggling to make ends meet and the conversation made me very angry. We had a blazing row about it, which surprised them as I was a very quiet person at the time.

But my second strike was little better and I still had no idea how to manage the money. I cleared the debts afterwards with a maternity grant.

### Problems

Then my husband left Ford's and went to work in a heavy engineering factory. A strike broke out. I was extremely depressed but determined to find a way of coping. I decided to try a different approach to the mounting debts and the money problems.

So I paid my rent and then cancelled my insurance. I assumed that if either of us died they could not



by Sadie Blood, housewife and IS member

leave a body to rot in the house. Then I cancelled the coal, thinking we could burn rubbish or wear coats all the time instead.

I explained to the children as best I could and cut their sweets drastically. Then I paid 5p or 10p off each of my debts. Someone had told me that if you show willing and pay a little then the firms are less likely to take you to court because you are trying to pay and strikes are not your fault.

Some firms put a great deal of pressure on you during strikes, but I got my own back on them. I wrote them long letters explaining about the strike and then I told all the people I knew not to deal with them.

I managed to survive that strike not too badly.

The following year we had to face the longest strike ever. It was six weeks, a week back at work and then out again for 13 weeks. Afterwards my husband was ill for two weeks with the strain.

This was the hardest one. The electricity was turned off. The man who came to cut off the supply was reluctant to do his job—but I told him we would survive no matter what the electric board did. My coalhouse was spotless and we burned allsorts. They even came and took the TV away.

### Active

There were also frequent arguments with women in the shops. Many were bitterly against the strike and I was often alone in arguing support for it. I tried to explain why the men were right. You can't let the bosses run your lives.

In spite of our difficulties I was convinced that we should stick it out and beat the management.

The following January a strike broke out over the sacking of a shop steward. It lasted seven weeks. Then this January my husband was himself sacked for being an active shop steward. He has managed to get another job.

If trouble comes in 1975 I have learned to face it with all the things I never knew about at first, such as free dinners and knowing what social security I'm entitled to, paying small sums off my debts, having no insurance and no coal, eating very simply.

It took me a long time to learn how to survive. I won't be broken in spirit. I believe that militant men are broken by seeing their wives beaten much more than by the bosses. Men on strike need the support of their wives more than anything.

## Did women EVER live like this?

ONE of the worst aspects of discrimination against women is the way they are used in films. Any self-respecting woman who has to endure watching the films now doing the rounds of local cinemas will experience a sensation similar to the endless drops of Chinese water torture. Each agonising scene causes pain.

Today's box office hits churn out a sickly version of male fantasies. It is bad enough to have to endure the dumb beauties of previous decades. But when your average liberated lady is faced with the same stereotypes in today's slick celluloid efforts, she may be forgiven for suggesting that perhaps contemporary cinema is behind the times in its attitudes to women.

As your modern miss sits cringing in front of the carefree flapper in *The Great Gatsby* someone is bound to comment that women were actually like that in those days. Do they really expect us to believe that women did not think—even in those days?

While we can appreciate that in a film like *The Sting* the main action will be centred round the two women, and that any actress cast alongside the combined egos of Paul Newman and Robert Redford will have a hard time, we can only wonder at a script that places women on a scale rating less important than booze, cars, fights and card games.

### Offshoots

Paper Moon is another nostalgic film doing the rounds. It portrays the depression. The female lead is played by Tatum O'Neil, but you cannot help speculating whether the script really called for anything more than a well-trained dog.



Mia Farrow as the 1920s flapper in *The Great Gatsby*

Females as people are hard to find on film. Even American Graffiti, probably the most enjoyable film now on release, portrays the girls only as offshoots of the boys. The boys do all the thinking and at times you can almost hear their brains ticking, above the melodious sounds of 'Flash Gordon and the Cadillacs'. They deal with the weighty decision-making, while the girls idly muse about which pop star they resemble.

Women as human beings do not exist for the movie moguls. Given that the formula for financial success today goes 'nostalgia plus stereotype equals jackpot', it is hardly surprising they continue to peddle the same

mind-rotting drivel. Profit, after all, is much more important than principles.

The film to cap the lot, however, and one not to be missed by aspiring male chauvinist piglets is *The Outfit*. It is the perfect example of how to treat your wife/girlfriend as target practice for nifty left uppercuts and stylish snarls of 'Shaddup'.

Funny, perhaps, but all these films insult women. We should be organising against the morality that allows women to be degraded in this way.



The best of the first two years  
The adventures of  
**OUR NORMAN** by Evans

40p each plus 5p postage and packing.  
IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

# They were dumping food while people starved...



I WAS a confused teenager, certain many things were wrong with society but unsure exactly what they were or how they could be dealt with.

I was taught a few political lessons when I read John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*\*, a book about people confused by the twists and turns of a capitalist society which is continually catching up on them and running them down. It is the story of a dispossessed community, driven from its bit of land in Okklahoma by the 'implacable march of industrial progress'.

The sharecroppers worked the land, which was an essential part of their lives. But they became alienated from it when the banks and the land companies took it over.

The tractor drivers who plough the land do not live off it but depend on the bank for wages and live in the towns. The land is run by clerks who have never seen it and who, by economics, decide what should be planted.

The farmers learn as they are exposed to business: 'When I was a kid my ol' man gave me a haltered heifer an' says take her down an' git her serviced... ever' time since then when I hear a business man talkin' about service, I wonder who's gettin' screwed.'

In California, the sharecroppers find unemployment, of land and of labour. They see food dumped while people starve. They see it guarded by armed men until it rots.

Steinbeck explains in simple terms the economics of unemployment, the rule of the 'profit margin', and the reasons for wage cuts, company stores, prejudice and bigotry, union oppression and the 'red scares'. All are to protect the owners.

He shows the way religion and the

*It takes a long time to make a socialist, but often just one influence tips the balance—a strike, a book, a film, a meeting. Here IAIN FENTON, from Stirling in Scotland, writes about the American novelist John Steinbeck. What made YOU a socialist? Write and tell us.*

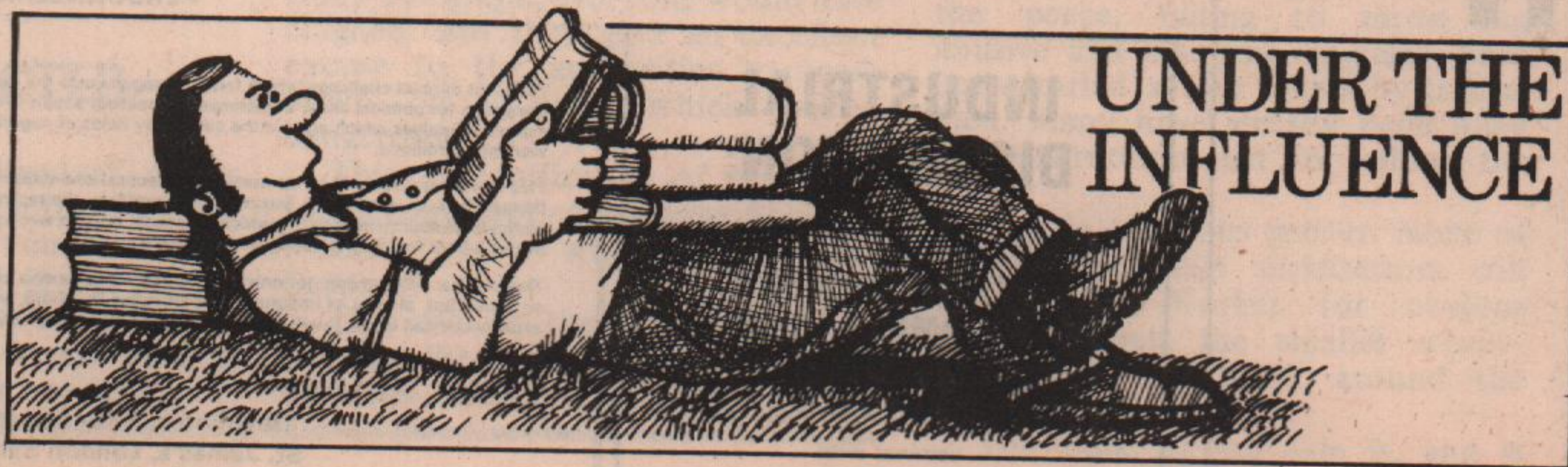
press work their dishonest magic. He shows the faults of the system through the changing ideas of an ex-preacher. Many of the poor people are religious, but religion can never solve their problems.

'Pray God some day kind people won't all be poor. Pray God some day a kid can eat.'

'And the association of owners knew that some day the praying would stop.'

'And there's the end.'

Having learned the reasons for the injustices of the system, I happened to come across *In Dubious Battle*\*. In this book Steinbeck shows the fruit



tramps in California in the 1930s, probably the same people who were flung off their land in *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Their problems are the same. There is widespread unemployment so owners are always trying to cut wage rates. Unions are smashed and anyone who fights for higher wages is a Red and is blacklisted, beaten up by 'pool-room Americans' or murdered.

## Failure

A strike begins—and revolutionaries, members of 'The Party', are involved. They are mainly field workers, teaching the workers how to fight together.

The strike has a dual nature that is never disguised. On the one hand, it is a strike to raise the miserable wage rates... and in that sense it is a failure. But it is also a weapon in the revolutionary struggle. It shows the workers the true face of the state machine and its weapons of violence.

It destroys many illusions, not least the unity of labour and capital. The fruit tramps learn this first hand.

But workers in the towns, who could be scabs or faceless vigilantes, also see the violence which perhaps the state will use against them next time.

The situation in California in the 1930s was far more extreme than in Britain today but the lessons are the same.

From the start of the strike, the revolutionaries try to involve all the workers. They vote in a strike committee, not for the sake of democracy, but because it becomes the workers' own committee. The organisation of the strikers' camp is divided among groups who each elect a representative who is instantly recallable.

The *Grapes of Wrath* convinced me of the need for revolution. In *Dubious Battle* convinced me of the need for a disciplined organisation to guide workers towards that goal.

●●  
\*Both books are available by post from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. *The Grapes of Wrath* is 45p, plus 7p postage. *In Dubious Battle* is 60p, plus 7p postage.

## It makes really CLASS television

FIRST a few words about that dauntless band of men and women who have been displaying their prowess all over our TV screens recently—the showjumpers. Yes, let it be said that to ride a high-spirited, highly-trained thoroughbred over an assortment of walls, fences and ditches takes the kind of skill, strength and stupidity which is beyond most 'ordinary' mortals.

By 'ordinary' I mean those of us who have not learned the little social tricks of what to say and do which the upper class jealously guards and preserves in order to distinguish them from us.

The world of the horse show is one of those bastions of upper-class manners and morals which puts up the biggest barrier to the entry of the 'lower classes'. If anyone thinks the class system is breaking down, the BBC provides plenty of evidence to the contrary in its coverage of horse shows.

The 'mystique' of the horse illustrates the way ruling class ideology operates. One favourite upper-class myth concerns the nature of 'breeding', and would have us believe that a thoroughbred show-jumper or racehorse is somehow superior to a plough-horse or carthorse. In fact the working animal is a necessity, the 'superior' breeds are parasites. The same is true of human beings.

## HORSES

The British public's reverence of the horse makes horse-meat unpopular, even though it tastes good. So all the broken-down nags that can no longer run or jump are crammed on ships and sold for meat on the continent where they fetch a good price. So much for the attitude of the upper class towards its horses!

But the most obscene thing about horse shows is that each one of the pampered, cosseted animals on display uses more resources, has a better diet, better accommodation and better medical treatment than the average working-class family not just in this country, but in the world.

It becomes even more obscene when you consider that none of the participants, from the crawling, snivelling commentators to the drawing, drivelling competitors, would even be there were it not for the legions of workers who produce the surplus wealth that enables them to indulge in this useless frippery.

JOHN PRANCE

# Do you adore South Africa? Then read this

**BANDIET**\* is a survival story, a survival story of a political prisoner in a South African jail.

The author, Hugh Lewin, had a great advantage over his many fellow politicals—his white skin. He was a member of a sabotage group, the National Committee for Liberation, later re-named African Resistance Movement, which also had a few black members. The group hit targets—usually electric pylons—in black and white areas at the same time to give the police the impression the group was very large.

Lewin was arrested after a series of police raids on the homes of possible sympathisers, one of which was on the flat of Lewin's best man, Adrian Leftwich. Leftwich had documents containing the entire history of the NCL virtually on display in his flat. The Special Branch had all the levers they ever wanted for interrogation.

*Bandiet* is the South African equivalent of 'old lag', and Lewin spent seven years of his life in



Faces of South Africa: For blacks...

Prison at Pretoria. Lewin and his fellow 'kommies' were kept with criminal prisoners, and it is thanks to them that he survived. They taught him the art of survival: When in prison trust no one.

Lewin describes his interrogation at Greys, the Special Branch HQ,

in vivid detail, and his treatment at the hands of the chief hatchet-man Captain Swanepoel show South African gestapo methods in action.

Central Prison, Pretoria, is the maximum security prison for white prisoners—its African counterpart is the notorious Robben Island. Central is one of the few places in South Africa where black and white can live alongside each other. Section B2 of the jail is Death-Row, where the majority of warders are black.

Lewin tells us that 'in the second half of 1966 alone, according to figures given in the South African parliament, 66 people were hanged. Of these 46 were African, 19 were coloured and one white.'

But the only black prisoners Lewin ever saw was a group doing building work inside the prison. Typically it was the blacks who did all the work, with the whites looking on.

Lewin and his fellow-bandiente were treated with some respect by

Whatever you seek, South Africa is a haunting experience. It is a mixture of the newest and the oldest, the sophisticated and the primitive, harsh mid-day suns and gentle sunsets. For the tourist it offers the chance to meet the wild in comfort.

... and from a tourist brochure

their fellow criminal prisoners. They were looked on as 'different'.

In his seven years in jail Lewin met 27 white political prisoners: 12 were there for sabotage, three were sentenced under the Explosives Act and 12 under the Suppression of Communism Act. Twelve were Com-

munist with pro-Moscow leanings, one was a member of the Communist Party with pro-Peking leanings, one avowed Trotskyite and four Liberals.

According to the South African government 'every effort is made to enable prisoners to become useful members of society after they have been discharged.' This is not the case with ex-prisoners such as Hugh Lewin. On his release from prison he was given the choice of being put under 24-hour house arrest or leaving the country. He chose to leave.

*Bandiet* is a book to be read by those who adore and those who abhor the South African police-state. Hugh Lewin dedicates it to 'all other political prisoners inside South African jails.' It is up to all of us to expose the South African regime for what it is.

VIC TAMBLING

\**Bandiet, Seven Years in a South African Prison*, by Hugh Lewin, Barrie and Jenkins, £3.25.

# ARE YOU ANY MORE EQUAL THAN BEFORE?

THE last Labour government introduced the Equal Pay Act with a fanfare of self-congratulation. They promised that progress would steadily be made towards equal pay, which would arrive no later than 1975.

1975 is now five months away. Yet little or nothing has been done to ensure that women get what they were promised. Last October women workers were averaging little over half what men get—53p an hour compared with 93p.

There are those who thought the new Labour government would surely see to this. After all, here was a country-old scandal they had pledged and promised they would halt.

## THE UNIONS

But in June, after a meeting between the TUC and Minister of Employment Michael Foot, it was announced that the government would probably not be introducing a Bill to enforce the Equal Pay Act. The government, it said, would be 'looking into other ways' to ensure 'orderly progress' towards equal pay.

It's hard to see what other steps they can take. For the big employers have systematically refused to bring

in equal pay. This statement really means that the government isn't going to do a thing about equal pay. The employers have won yet again.

So again the ball is firmly in the unions' court. But what are the unions doing about it?

In engineering, apparently, nothing. Even though equal pay is always tacked on to wage demands made by the AUEW, it is clearly there only for negotiating away again.

A recent report published by Incomes Data Services shows that differentials in engineering have remained static for over a year. APEX, the office workers' union, has been a little more enterprising. They ran a bit of a campaign last year with a few strikes to enforce steps towards equal pay. But job evaluation was the basis for negotiated settlements.

The exercise probably had more to do with a recruitment drive than equal pay as it gained the union a great deal of publicity.

But APEX, more than half of whose members are women, is not through yet. The union is drawing up a blacklist of companies who are

ignoring the Act. These include Hawker Siddeley, GEC and the British Aircraft Corporation. All the union has to do now is decide what to do with the list.

Delegates to the TASS conference earlier this year failed to carry on an amendment demanding that no trade union official put his name to a wage agreement that does not include equal pay for women. Perhaps next year...

And SOGAT, the printers' union, recently signed a threshold agreement with the Scottish employers' association which gives threshold payments to women learners and young workers based on their earnings. Women get lower pay, so the union negotiates lower increases to cope with rising prices. Does that sound logical to you?

But SOGAT's negotiations over a wage claim with the British Federation of Master Printers resulted in a more hopeful settlement. Under a previous agreement, subject to final job classification being negotiated, women were to receive 95 per cent of the rate for their grade by March 1975 and the full rate by the end of 1975.

## QUESTION

# Why isn't this against the interests of the union?

## ANSWER

# Because it's in the interests of Clive Jenkins

IAN GIBSON, ASTMS executive member was barred from office for three years last month after a trial by the executive which ruled that he had acted contrary to the interests of the union by writing an article in this newspaper.

General secretary Clive Jenkins, as a mark of his devotion to the union and its interests, insisted that Ian be kicked off the executive immediately even though an appeal was pending.

The same Clive Jenkins hasn't hesitated for a moment in agreeing to give a lucrative 'off the record' personal report and exchange of views' on the white collar trade unionism—to top company executives.

The executives pay £37.80 (VAT and cocktails included) for four and three-quarter hours of so-called seminar, led by Clive in the plush surroundings of the exclusive London restaurant Quaglino's.


The afternoon is rounded off with: 'Cocktails: An opportunity to meet Mr Jenkins socially.'

Business Studies Consultants, the firm which has laid on the course of lectures of which Jenkins' is the first, declined to tell Socialist Worker how much Clive was getting for his afternoon's endeavours. But the fee is hardly likely to be less than £100.

According to the brochure, Jenkins will actually be advising the executives, who in all probability will include bosses from companies where ASTMS has members, or is recruiting, how they should operate.

### Tactics

As the brochure puts it: 'Faced with increasing pressures from inflation a wide variety of middle-class groups are now displaying a new militancy. (At 20 per cent inflation, a man on £3000 a year needs a £600 rise to stand still.) As Britain's economic crisis and political instability deepens will the middle class react through a rapid extension of their own brand of trade unionism? 'How should company managers plan to meet this challenge? What are their opportunities and what should their tactics be? What tactics



### THE CHALLENGE OF MIDDLE CLASS UNIONISM OPPORTUNITIES AND TACTICS

An 'Afternoon' Seminar for Industrial Relations, Personnel and General Management (Numbers will be limited)

An Off-the-Record Personal Report and Exchange of Views Led by

## CLIVE JENKINS

General Secretary, ASTMS

2.15pm to 6pm Wednesday, 16th October, 1974. Quaglino's, London, S.W.1.

**bsc** BUSINESS STUDIES CONSULTANTS

### INDUSTRIAL DISRUPTION: ITS PROMOTERS, THEIR METHODS AND HOW TO COMBAT THEM

a one-day off-the-record study group seminar with

## DR K W WATKINS

**bsc** BUSINESS STUDIES CONSULTANTS

**PERSONNEL/INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

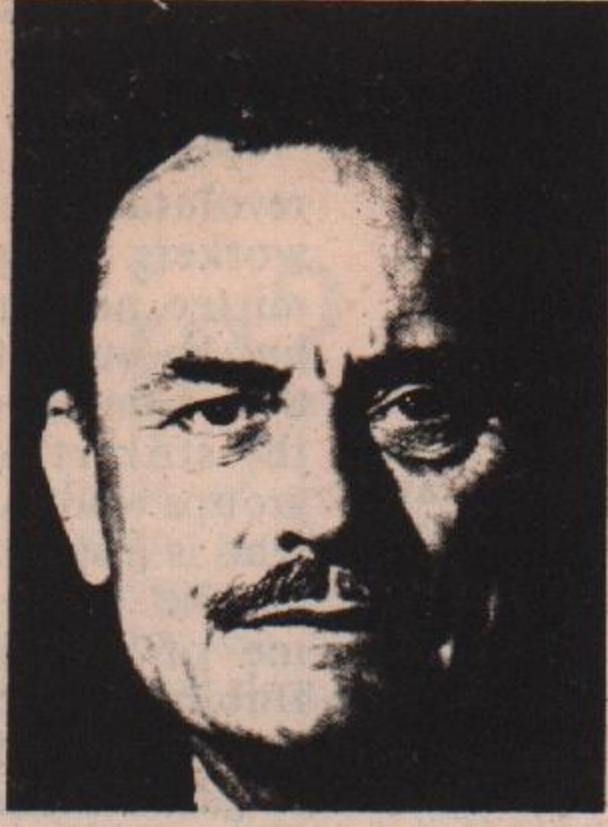
The most difficult challenge which faces management is the growth of industrial disruption for political ends. Sometimes the political action is overt but usually it seeks to exploit difficulties which arise in the customary fields of negotiations about wage and working conditions.

This private seminar will be an essentially practical one which will discuss, among other themes, how to identify the sources of the problem, the techniques of the disrupters, methods of countering attacks which are made, how to win agreement with the majority of the labour force by isolating the disrupters.

This seminar will provide not only an opportunity to receive an up-to-date analysis from an expert but, at least as important, to participate in a frank and fundamental pooling of experiences and ideas. It will above all be a discussion seminar.

Quaglino's, Bury Street St. James's, London SW1

Tuesday 29 October 1974  
Tuesday 29 April 1975



### THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND YOUR COMPANY

An 'Afternoon' Seminar for General, Financial, Marketing and Industrial Relations Senior Management (Numbers will be limited)

An Off-the-Record Personal Report and Exchange of Views Led by

## ENOCH POWELL

2.15pm to 6pm Tuesday, 12th November, 1974. Quaglino's, London, S.W.1.

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Note the company Brother Jenkins keeps

BY LAURIE FLYNN

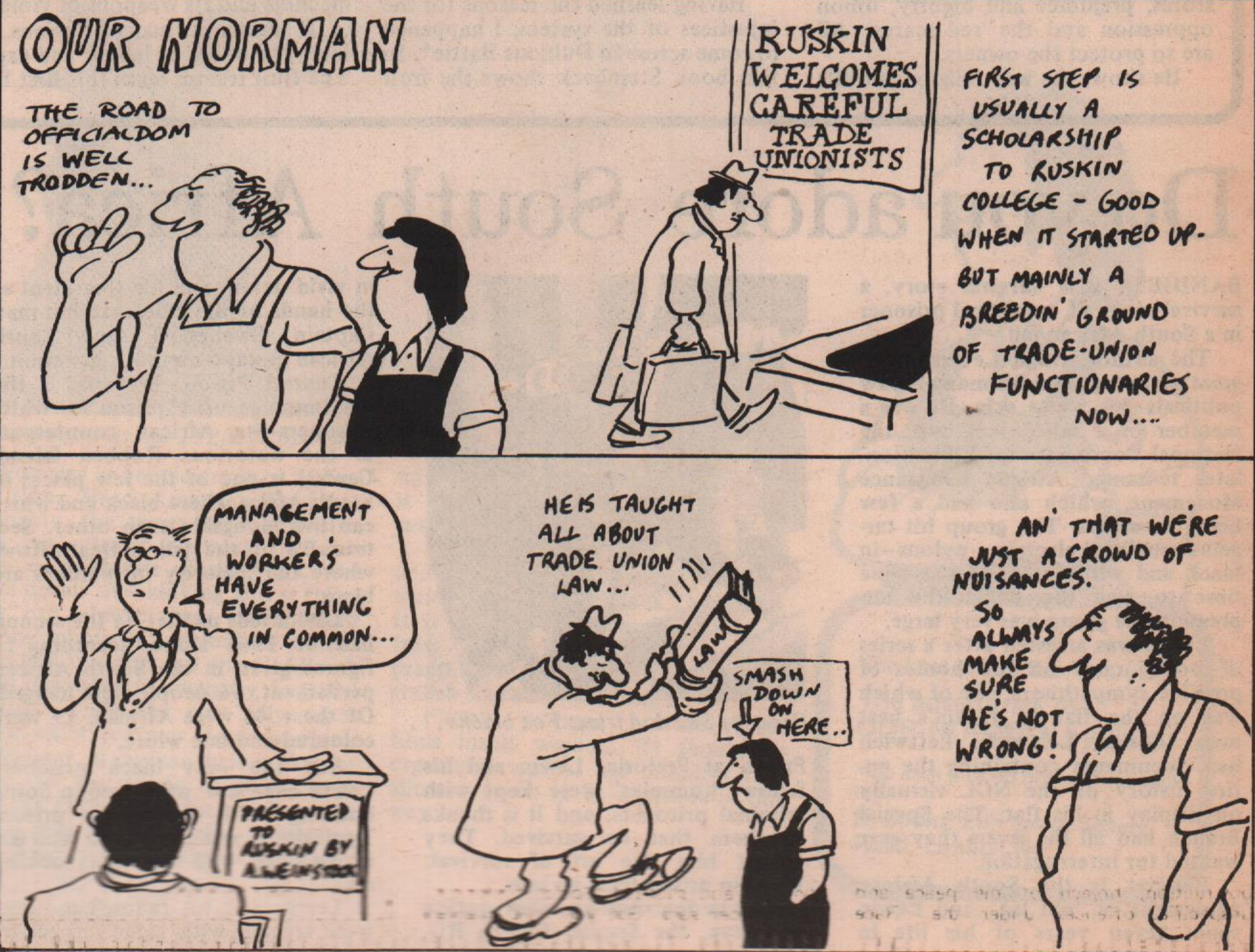
and pressures should they expect from middle-class unionists?

'These are some of the problems which will be discussed by Mr Jenkins.'

Clive is only one of a star-studded cast in this series of afternoon seminars. The racist demagogue Enoch Powell is on at Quaglino's just one month after Clive. He is to take 'the role of politico-economic adviser to your company'. Perhaps he will advise on how to drown trade unionists, white or black, in his favourite rivers of blood.

In between these two is a lesser-known gentleman, Dr K W Watkins of Sheffield University. This turncoat Communist has spent the past five years moving rapidly to the right and getting himself out of the obscurity to which he belongs on to the lucrative 'business lecture circuit'.

He is to lecture on 'Industrial Disruption'—that is, how to smash militant trade unionism and deal with people who campaign for a different sort of society where Messrs Powell, Jenkins and Watkins couldn't earn £100 an afternoon for advising rich parasites how to hang on to their spoils.



**OUR NORMAN**

THE ROAD TO OFFICIALDOM IS WELL TRODDEN...

RUSKIN WELCOMES CAREFUL TRADE UNIONISTS

FIRST STEP IS USUALLY A SCHOLARSHIP TO RUSKIN COLLEGE - GOOD WHEN IT STARTED UP - BUT MAINLY A BREEDIN' GROUND OF TRADE-UNION FUNCTIONARIES NOW....

MANAGEMENT AND WORKERS HAVE EVERYTHING IN COMMON...

HE'S TAUGHT ALL ABOUT TRADE UNION LAW...

SMASH DOWN ON HERE..

AN' THAT WERE JUST A CROWD OF NUISANCES. SO ALWAYS MAKE SURE HE'S NOT WRONG!

### STRENGTH

The national claim put in this spring included the demand for the elimination of the lowest grade, Class four, so that when equal pay is introduced no women will get less than a class 3 worker. The union for once decided to use the industrial strength of workers in Fleet Street and other vital plants to pursue the claim and help the low paid. This action successfully secured the abolition of class 4 and won other demands.

No chance, however, for Post Office workers. The UPW enforces a recruitment ban on the Post Office hiring full-time women workers. Tom Jackson, the union general secretary, insists that this is not discrimination but simply an industrial tactic to block off other sources of labour.

Any self-respecting trade unionist worried about cheap labour would be taking part in an energetic campaign to secure equal pay, not victimising women.

This pitiful display is the aftermath of some 80-odd resolutions calling for equal pay passed over the past century by the TUC. No doubt delegates to the TUC this year will again piously raise their hands and do nothing.

Yet this autumn the fight against low pay will be a key issue. Equal pay will be to the forefront. So far, the most hopeful path has been pointed by the SOGAT workers in their struggle to eliminate low grades. In every industry women manual workers are imprisoned in low-paid grades, so unless these are abolished equal pay will still mean low pay.

This is the real key to equal pay.

### ANNA PACZUSKA

# DEFEND SOCIALIST

# WORKER!



NEWS

by PAUL  
FOOT, Editor

THE standard-bearers of modern capitalist society are always boasting about their Free Press. Everyone, they argue, can publish what they like. That is one of the features which marks our society as the best in the world.

There is a free press—for newspapers and publications which uphold capitalist society. There is also a free press for newspapers and publications which oppose capitalist society—provided no one reads them.

There is also a free press for newspapers and publications which oppose capitalist society—but do not propose to do anything about it.

Difficulties with the free press only emerge when newspapers and publications in opposition to capitalist society increase in circulation and help to organise resistance to that society. Then the free press has to be curbed.

That is what is happening to Socialist Worker.

When Socialist Worker was a four-page sheet, printing 5000 a week, and selling only half that number, it was not threatened by anyone.

But in the last year, as the circulation and influence of the paper have risen further and as the International Socialists for the first time have established a respect and presence in the British working class, the authorities have moved against the paper.

There are various methods whereby the authorities in British democracy move against a publication which they detest.

The criminal law is stuffed full of statutes and judges' decisions which can be used against rebel newspapers. The most notorious of these are criminal libel and contempt of court.

Criminal libel is a very old offence. It came into prominence in the early 1820s and 1830s and was against the radical press of the poor. Almost anything can be classified as a criminal libel.

It is for instance 'a seditious libel' (a common form of criminal libel) to publish anything which 'sets one class against another.' Or libel to write 'anything defamatory about any group of people held by the public in high esteem.'

It is fair to say that almost everything which has been written in Socialist Worker in the past six years could be constructed as a criminal libel.

## CONSTRUCTED

When we wrote 'Murder!' across the front page following the shooting by the army of 13 young men in Derry in January 1972, it was plainly of the army—a body of men who, as any judge will tell you, are held in high esteem. No action was taken.

But when we wrote murder about the death of Kevin Gately at the Red Lion Square demonstration in June, the papers were sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions, and Jim Nichol, the paper's publisher, was cautioned by the police that the headline (and the poster which copied it) was a criminal libel.

Contempt of court, too, is a familiar way of shutting papers up. In the early 1930s, the publishers of the Daily Worker were sent to prison—one of them for three years—over an article which described a judge as a bewigged old fool, and if the words had appeared in the Daily Telegraph, everyone would have laughed. But they gave an excellent excuse to the authorities to crack down on a paper which looked dangerous.

This is significance of the Janie Jones contempt case against Socialist Worker which will be heard in October.

The use of the criminal law is perhaps the most publicised of the methods used by the authorities

against the paper, but there is a much more subtle and effective method: to cut the paper off from its readers by prosecuting and harassing the people who sell it.

Socialist Worker sellers who have been tolerated for years by the police are now being harassed and arrested.

In Guildford, sellers of the Morning Star and Socialist Worker have been arrested.

In Crawley, Socialist Worker sellers have been photographed.

In Blackburn, there has been a long record of police harassment of our sellers, culminating last month in the arrest of a man who shouted 'Socialist Worker!'

In Nottingham, as miner Steve Abbott wrote four weeks ago, three Socialist Worker sellers have been arrested for selling the paper, though they studiously obeyed police instructions and have been selling in the shopping centre for months.

## OBEYED

In Harlow, the IS secretary was got out of bed at 2am by police making inquiries about paper selling.

In York, in Glasgow and other towns, the entire IS organisation has been prosecuted for putting up Socialist Worker posters.

All the trivia of the common law—obstruction, causing a breach of the peace, failing to move on, abusive and insulting language—have been hurled at our sellers by policemen. Many have already been fined for obstruction just for selling the paper.

This is a serious matter. None of the big capitalist distributors will sell Socialist Worker, for obvious reasons. Even the smaller wholesalers will not hawk around the smaller retail outlet.

The bulk of our sale is, and is likely to be for a long time, in the street and outside factory gates. Harassment and arrest of our sellers strikes, and is intended to strike at the jugular vein of our 'right to publish'.

We can learn a lot from the poverty stricken street sellers of 150 years ago. They organised mass resistance to their prosecution. Each arrest was followed by more selling in the spot where the arrest took place.

Each sentence was jeered at in the courts. Finally, the authorities climbed down and abolished the stamp tax, for ignoring which the papers has been prosecuted.

Our comrades are defying the attacks in the localities. But individual defiance can be broken by the authorities.

## CO-ORDINATE

If we are to establish the right to publish, we must take our campaign into the trade union movement at large. We must win the open and active support of respected trade unionists who may not share all the politics of Socialist Worker or IS.

Already we have sent an appeal to prominent trade unionists throughout the country, including not only EC members and prominent militants, but also leaders of strikes which have figured prominently in Socialist Worker over recent months.

We will need to co-ordinate this support in the weeks ahead—to organise meetings and fund-raising activities in all the areas around the theme 'Defend Socialist Worker'.

The time to resist execution is before it takes place. The warning signs are plainly there. The deliberate, concerted action of the authorities is plain to see. If we resist and organise, we can drive them back.

Organised working class resistance is the fountain of all the freedoms we enjoy in capitalist society. It is the only method by which these freedoms can be maintained and extended.

## LEICESTER DEMO

THE details printed in last week's Socialist Worker of Saturday's counter-demonstration against the National Front in Leicester have been changed.

All IS branches should attend and meet at Spinney Hill Park 12.30pm sharp, at the Park corner opposite the junction of Park Vale Road and Mere Road.

SOCIALIST WORKER has recently carried stories about the harassment of Socialist Worker sellers by the police. Our paper hasn't been the only one or even the main target. For the forces of law and order—the army, the police, the judges—are concerned about all kinds of trade unionists, blacks and Irish Republicans—anyone who steps 'out of line'.

They are concerned because they are determined to shore up the present system of society and preserve their own privileged position in it.

It is not often you can assemble an overall view of harassment and victimisation by the forces and fans of law and order. Blackburn International Socialists have put a dossier together about what has happened to members of their branch and others they know in town over the past two years. Meanwhile on Thursday this week two more members of Blackburn IS were in court. Their crime—selling Socialist Worker.

May and June 1972. Black workers beaten and robbed in side streets around Blackburn bus station. Pakistani workers demanded action. They wanted vigilante groups at the bus station to protect their community. Adam Patel of the Community Relations Council, owner of £500,000 clothing factory in Blackburn, suggested a deputation to the police.

Police denied that such attacks had taken place, but sent two or three constables to the bus station. The attackers moved to mills where Asians are employed. From that time to the present these attacks have continued, mainly at Skewbridge, Roe Lee and Albion Mills.

National Front put out leaflet urging whites to come to the bus station to help with 'Paki-bashing'.

September 1972. The Front held march and meeting in Blackburn. The left, principally IS comrades in the North, held a counter-demo with the aim of forcing the fascists off the streets. The Front were routed, but IS comrades ended up in court with fines totalling £1000.

The Front marched again in January 1973. They were protected by 1500 police on foot, in cars, on motor-bikes and on horses. Nine IS comrades were arrested.

June 1973. IS comrades putting out leaflets in local elections against the National Front were attacked by large gang of fascist thugs led by Kingsley Reed, their local leader. Police action—nil.

February 1974. General Election. Outside polling stations 10 IS comrades handed out leaflets while others toured working-class areas with loudspeakers explaining to workers why they should vote Labour and say No to the fascists.

That day:  
10am: Two constables came and said we were obstructing the footpath.

1pm: Three constables and two sergeants said we were committing a breach of the peace.

2.30pm: One inspector and numerous constables said we were committing obstruction, breach of the peace and unspecified offences under the Race

### Relations Act.

5.30pm: All the gold braid and their minions arrived, including the Chief. They repeated what had been said by earlier police and even ventured to suggest we would be done for 'Incitement to riot' under the Race Relations Act.

By this time there were 20 of us, including six black workers, and it was a great victory. We stood our ground and the police, after much finger-wagging and verbal threats, backed down.

Mid-June 1974. Les Kay and Peter Fielding, two IS comrades, were interviewed by a detective sergeant from D13 Metropolitan Police. He had been in town for a week, and with help from the local force had compiled a dossier of lies and innuendo.

The interview was on the lines that during the general election Les and Pete had done numerous things that had altered the course of the election result in a way unfavourable to the National Front—things like putting out leaflets exposing the fascists, when according to this man from D13 the National Front were thoroughly respectable.

The one-sided conversation—the comrades refused to answer—ended with a blunt warning: that the next time they met, it would be very unpleasant for them, for they would be charged with criminal libel, unspecified offences under the Representation of the People Act, and conspiracy to subvert.

20 July 1974. Peter Fielding and Paul Whittaker were selling papers in the shopping precinct. They were approached by constable Musker and asked if they had the right to sell papers there. They said yes. He then asked if they had the right to sellotape 'Socialist Worker on sale here' posters to the wall. They said yes and he went away.

Ten minutes later he returned with his mate and stood directly in front of them, only inches away. One seller stepped to the side and shouted 'Socialist Worker'. The copper said 'Got you' and charged

# Defend Socialist Worker!

both with 'abusive behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace.'

Thursday 1 August 1974. Four IS comrades were putting up posters on derelict shop windows advertising a public meeting. An unmarked red car slewed across the road and mounted the pavement nearly knocking one IS lad down. Three men jumped out, dressed like two-bit gangsters. They tore the poster off the wall and asked for names. Our comrades replied: 'Who are you?' They immediately produced their police cards.

The comrades still refused to give their names, replying that they had every right to be out at 11pm and that fly posting is not a criminal offence.

One, Mirian Eccles, asked if they were to be charged. After asking twice without getting an answer, she said: 'If you have no reason for stopping us we're going.'

One copper twisted her arm up her back. He threw her into the back of the car. Then he aimed Peter Fielding in the same direction.

As soon as the car started up one copper turned to them and said: 'I'm surprised at you, Mr Fielding, being an ex-councillor you should know we are only doing our job.' So much for their needing names and addresses.

At the station they were put in the cells, but with the arrival of their solicitor, who had been telephoned, they were immediately let out after being charged with abusive behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace. The only abuse had been from the Hollywood-style coppers who were enjoying throwing their weight around.



## WHAT'S ON

ENTRIES for this column must be posted to reach Socialist Worker by Monday morning—and remember the 'first class' post takes two days as often as one. Due to pressure of work we cannot take What's On entries over the phone. Entries here are free for IS branches and other IS organisations.

### IS public meetings

MERSEYSIDE IS discussion meeting: The Revolutionary Party. Speaker Tony Cliff on the history of the Bolshevik Party and how it led to the Russian Revolution of 1917. Saturday 31 August, 11am, Stanley House, Upper Parliament Street. Followed by social at Strand Hotel, Brunswick Street (opposite Pier Head): disco, bar extension to 11.30pm. Admission 40p at the door. All welcome.

LONDON HOSPITAL WORKERS IS branch open meeting: Women, the Family and Work, Wednesday 28 August, 7.30pm. The Prince Albert pub, Wharfedale Road, London N1. (nearest tube Kings Cross). All welcome. Babysitters can be obtained through Ron Singer (phone 01-732 9016).

SOCIALIST WORKER DEFENCE FUND Folk Concert: Alex Glasgow and Claymore, Saturday 7 September, 8-11.30pm, Centrepoint, St John's Road, Epping. Admission 50p.

BRIGHTON IS public meeting: The menace of the National Front. Speaker: A London dockworker. Thursday 29 August, 8pm, Stanford Arms, Preston Circus.

### Meetings for IS members

#### WOMEN IN STRUGGLE

A special national day school for all working class women IS members.

Saturday 31 August

10.30am to 5.30pm

Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham (Five minutes walk from Birmingham New Street station)

IS branch women's convenors should attend, branches without women's convenor should send delegates. Sessions on Equal Pay and Women in IS. John Deason, of the IS Industrial Department, on IS perspectives. For overnight accommodation ring Birmingham 426 2872.

IS AUEW FRACTION executive: Saturday 31 August.

BRITISH LEYLAND IS factory branch delegate meeting: Sunday 1 September.

IS BUILDING WORKERS' Conference, 7 September, cancelled. Circular following.

IS North London Building Workers' fraction meet Tuesday evenings, 7.45pm at the Enterprise, opposite Chalk Farm tube.

IS IRISH CONFERENCE: Sunday 8 September, 8 Cottons Gardens, starting 10.30am sharp. Resolutions to Irish Subcommittee by 4 September. All branches requested to send at least one delegate. Admission by membership card.

Socialist Worker writer's school: Saturday 7 September in Manchester. Speak to your branch secretary or phone SW editorial office for more information or last-minute details.

### IS Notices

COACHES from London to Leicester for the anti-fascist demonstration on Saturday 24 August, leaving Pancras Road, next to Kings Cross Station at 9.30am. £1.25 return. Book by sending money in advance to John Rose, London Region IS, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

LEEDS IS: Coach to Leicester anti-fascist rally Saturday 24 August leaves 9am from the University steps. Fare £1.

WANTED: Room for IS comrade now working in the printshop. Please write to Graham Black, c/o SW Litho, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS (phone 01-739 1970).

COMRADE, STUDENT in Central London, seeks accommodation in the city. Please write to M J Gordon, 82 Bedhampton Road, Havant, Hants, or phone Havant 77588.

FOR SALE: Proceeds to the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund, Gas cooker, electric cooker and fridge. Phone 01-739 1870. Any offers accepted!

CHINGARI, latest issue now out (both Punjabi and Urdu editions). Includes articles on Imperial Typewriters strike, Leicester, Portugal, The crisis in the Health Service. Price 3p per copy (please add postage) from Europe Singh (Punjabi), 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2, or J Engineer (Urdu), 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Silk-screen posters for IS public meetings: 'The government attacks the left-wing press—defend Socialist Worker. Speakers from SW and trade unions'. Plus cartoon. Space for time, date, place etc. £1. per 100 (inc p&p). Money with order to: Jon Tittle, 26 Blackberry Terrace, Bevois Valley, Southampton SO2 OED. All proceeds to fighting fund.

GOODBYE ANNA AND JOHN: Wigan IS and friends are invited to a party, Saturday 31 August, 8.30pm-onwards, 31 Park Road, Wigan.

SOCIALIST WORKER needs a general labourer/driver to operate from Corbridge Works. IS members with a clean licence only, to start as soon as possible. Write to Mel Norris, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 or phone 01-739 1870.



**SOCIALIST WORKER** urges readers to raise the maximum support possible for these disputes. The recent increase in isolated strikes of black workers which have lacked realistic support either from the official trade unions or from sections of white rank and file workers is alarming.

No-one should underestimate the effect of employers increasingly taking the offensive against the more than justified militancy of black workers. The employers' confidence will only be increased by apathy within the unions.

The fact that black busmen striking in Burnley for the reinstatement of one of their brothers have to occupy their local TGWU

by John Deason, IS Industrial Organiser

office in order to get things moving is an indication of how far the rot has set in.

Racialism can never be defeated by ignoring the problem and hoping it will go away. A thoroughgoing campaign against racist ideas within the trade unions should be given flesh and blood by maximising support for strikes of black workers.

Black workers are giving notice that far from being cheap labour, they are prepared to fight, and fight hard, against the employers.

Particularly within the TGWU, IS members and sympathisers are urged to:

1. Move resolutions of support

2. Demand the strikes be made official and raise district levies to add to official strike pay.

3. Demand that the executive officially mobilise blacking in support of the strikers. (Potentially the TGWU, more than any other union, can black any firm out of business, if determined action is taken.)

4. Mobilise picketing support. The importance of white workers, from whatever workplace, joining black strikers on the picket line cannot be over-estimated.

5. Call for a full TGWU inquiry of elected lay members—at least half black to investigate the increase in racist incidents and practices within the union. The inquiry must make its findings available to all union members.

## What the inspector didn't see

**KIRKBY, Lancs:**—Lano-Film have for the last five years been cutting asbestos. But only the last three to four weeks have the workers realised how lethal it is.

A couple of weeks ago a factory inspector inspected the place and was horrified at what he saw. The manager was also horrified. He told the shop steward the inspector had no right in coming because he didn't give 24 hours' notice.

During the inspector's visit, the foreman told one of the men to throw his mask away. He said the mask was not approved according to the Asbestos Regulations. These masks have been in use for years. Yet only now we find out they are not approved.

Why didn't management tell us earlier? Because approved masks cost more money. Regulations may save lives but they cost money. These regulations call for work areas to be vacuumed. We have to make do with a brush and a cloud of dust.

They also say that areas be set aside for changing rooms and for canteen facilities. Lano-Film have neither. Ever tried eating asbestos sandwiches? Or taking home a bootful of asbestos?

After the inspector's visit, he banned two machines from being used. However, he missed the dangers outside the factory. At the front of the factory is a small yard which opens out onto the main road. There is no gate or fence to stop you going in. Not even a sign saying you're not to go in.

In this yard is housed the dust extract collection unit, where the dust is collected in flimsy polythene bags and then thrown into a waste skip, also in the yard. On a windy day you can get asbestosis just walking by the factory.

At weekends children are free to play around in it as much as they like.

Asbestos is a killer and we, the workers of Lano-Film, are going to fight it. We implore other workers in the asbestos trade to do the same thing.

# AGAIN—ASIANS LEFT TO FIGHT ALONE

**BURNLEY:**—The 58 Asian busmen who struck over the sacking of Mohammed Bhatti for refusing to do overtime have returned to work.

The men took the decision, pending a National Joint Industrial Council inquiry, at a mass meeting on Sunday. Meanwhile, Mohammed Bhatti has been suspended on full pay.

The strikers occupied the local Transport and General Workers Union offices last Thursday and stayed there until Sunday's meeting in an attempt

to get the strike made official and get their white fellow workers to unite with them against the victimisation.

Two appeals against the dismissal submitted to the management and the Joint Transport Committee were dismissed last week.

## OCCUPATION

White busmen, who make up four-fifths of the workforce, were breaking the strike by working normally and keeping the buses running on overtime and rest-day working.

The strikers' position would have been strengthened by the return of thousands of local kids back to school and the need for more buses on the road. But there is

no doubt that the Asians' strike and occupation forced the management to act.

Sabhan Kahn, spokesman for the Action Committee, described the background to the action:

'When I got this job a year ago the behaviour of the traffic people and the inspectors with our people shocked me. When there are incidents with passengers, management doesn't want to know.'

'But if a passenger puts in a complaint against an Asian driver or conductor, the man will get called into the office straight away and be given a final warning—and after that you get fired.'

'Our people who were on spare duty were getting more late duties and fewer early duties than the white busmen and had hardly any days off.'

'When a white busman goes to the traffic office he will say, "I want such-and-such a day as my day off—early turn or nothing", and he will get it.'

## RACIST

'If an Asian says, "I don't want to work an evening", they won't give him an early but tell him to take his day off instead.'

Sabhan and the other Asians soon found themselves fighting more than just a racist management. The T&GWU Branch Secretary, Clifford Platt, a Labour Councillor, is fantastically hostile to the Pakistanis.

Four other Labour Party councillors make up the Transport Sub-Committee which turned down Bhatti's appeal and accused the Asians' unofficial strike of damaging the internal relationships of the employees!

All along the Action Committee have had to rely on their own organisation and initiative in the face of poisonous racist smears and rumours.

As the strikers return to work, they clearly understand the need to continue arguing for support for Bhatti among their white brothers and sisters.

At a time when the racialists have been crawling out from under their stones in Leicester and elsewhere, the Asian busmen's tremendous solidarity and fighting spirit in Burnley will be an inspiration to other black workers in the fight-back against the deadliest weapon of the employing class.

## SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLIC MEETING

**Racialism — The Bosses' Weapon**  
Speakers: The Editor of *Chingari* and John Deason, IS Industrial Organiser  
Chairman: Les Kay, T&GWU, Blackburn Buses.  
Thursday, 22 August, 8pm,  
the Miners Club, Plumb Street, Burnley

**Birmingham Chile Solidarity Campaign** public meeting. Trade union and Chilean speakers, plus film. Sunday 1 September, 7.30pm, Digbeth Civic Hall, Lecture Room 1.

**Brighton Chile Solidarity Campaign** public meeting. Chile and the British Labour Movement. Speaker: Jack Collins (Kent NUM) Tuesday 3 September 7.30pm, King and Queen pub.

**Songs of protest** of the militant working class will be sung at Ellington Park, Ramsgate (or in Granville Theatre if wet) on Monday 26 August 2-6pm by Shirley Collins, Etchingham Steam Band, Crayfolk, The Mariners, Derek Sarjeant, Hazel King, Clarke Sisters, Keith Pearson, Paul Wilson. Adults 20p, children 10p.

**HOSPITAL WORKER No 10 NOW OUT.** Four-page special (price 3p) on latest developments—hospital engineers' strike, radiographers, nurses, private patients and London Weighting. Orders to 8 Beverstone Road, London SW2. Please add postage.

**IS couple need flat/room** North London immediately. Contact Phil Evans/Maggie Rutter, Hamstreet 221 (Kent).

**Second issue of Hotel and Catering Worker** now out. Full round-up of recent disputes in industry. Copies, 2p plus postage, from 345 Hangleton Road, Hove, Sussex.

**THE SOCIALIST PARTY** aims at building a moneyless world community without frontiers based on common ownership—with production solely for use—not profit. It opposes all other political parties, all leadership, all racism, all war. Write for specimen socialist literature to One World (SW), The Socialist Party of Great Britain, 52 Clapton High Street, London, SW4

## Classified

Copy for the Classified section must arrive by first post Monday morning. Adverts will not be accepted over the phone. Charges are 1p per word, semi-display 2p per word. CASH WITH COPY to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

**SUPPORT WANTED** for Islington Tenants Campaign picket on Prebbles Estate Agents. Meet 9.30am-12.30pm every Saturday, 82 Parkway Camden Town, 109 Upper St, Islington and 564 Tottenham High Street.

**Lenin and Trotsky posters, 21" x 16"** for sale, 30p each. Proceeds to Socialist Worker fighting fund. Orders with money to Mick Calvert, 83 St George's Road, Hull.

**GKN WORKER**, the newssheet written and produced by rank and file trade unionists in GKN. Latest issue now out. Price 1p per copy (plus postage please), from 165 Tame Road, Witton, Birmingham 6, or IS Books, 224 Deritend High Street, Birmingham.

**GOOD DANCE GROUP** available for IS and trade union socials in London—£20 but negotiable. Phone Mike at 01-567 4575.

**IMG comrade with seven-year-old son** and animals wants non-sectarian comrades(s) perhaps with child, to share friendly home in London NW5. £9 per week inclusive. Phone 01-485 0077.

**South London Chile Solidarity Campaign: Friday 6 September.** An evening for the Chilean resistance. The Telegraph, 228 Brixton Hill SW2, Reggae Band Matumbi, food, drinks, 7.30pm. **Saturday 7 September.** March, Brixton Oval, 11am, followed by play by Counter-Act. **1pm.** **Wednesday 11 September.** Mass rally Brixton Hall, 7.30pm. Speakers: Chilean speaker, Michael Fenn (shop steward, NASD), Royal Docks) Tom Pilford, Neil Kinnock and local organisations.

## Fascists The battle steps up

THE FIGHT against fascism and racism is stepping up in the West Midlands. A conference of Black Country trade union organisations—arranged by Warley Trades Council executive for Saturday 31 August—will include speakers such as Auta Joheul, of the Indian Workers Association, and Tom Sibley of the Runcymede Trust.

The Black Country has recently experienced increased National Front activities. Two Front candidates stood in the Langley Council elections, each polling less than 100 votes. The Front have also been championing the cause of retired white residents whose property they claim has declined in value as a result of the increased number of black neighbours.

Front members have been skillfully getting their voices heard on a phone-in programme run by right-wing comper Keith Hayes on the local commercial radio station.

The main fight against fascism must be in the labour movement in committing all working class organisations to anti-racist and internationalist positions.

**AGAINST** all forms of discrimination and immigration control, and the holding of union cards by Front members.

**FOR** all black workers in struggle and the setting up of a local rank and file trade unionists committee to make sure these policies are implemented.

## JOBS THAT 'VANISHED'

**LEICESTER:** 145 Asian workers at Barrington Products, makers of radio and TV components, were laid off last week after putting in a wage demand. The men are paid just over £22 for 40 hours. Management have offered just over £32, but this is for adopting a three-shift system and includes £2.40 held back because of Phase Three.

Workers at Barrington's sister factory arrived on Monday to find the door locked. They went down to the main factory and were joined by the rest of production workers who were told to leave by management because there was not enough work. But management are still pushing for the three-shift system! Mr Safdar, branch secretary, said: 'They are mucking us about. Really they don't want to pay us the money.'

A few white workers are still in the factory but are not members of the union—the T&G. The men joined the picket line at Lenilworth Components where eight Asian women in the T&G were sacked on Friday causing all 28 Asian women to strike. The strike is being backed by the local T&G. Police arrived on the scene within a few minutes, trying to find the strike leaders.

## FRONT RETREAT

**BRISTOL:**—A meeting planned for last Saturday by the National Front in the streets of Bedminster was stopped by the action of the Bristol Anti-Fascist Committee which is supported by the International Socialists, the International Marxist Group and the Communist Party.

The Front first gave out leaflets to passers-by, but were closely followed by committee members giving out leaflets explaining the Front's real nature. As the meeting was due to begin, the Front's flags and banners were torn down and and fascists forced to retreat.

# Workers on the move against the car bosses

COVENTRY:—Workers at two Chrysler subsidiaries are on strike for parity after three years of promises. Auto Machinery (140 workers) and Hills Precision (450) struck last week in a now-or-never fight to force Chrysler to keep their promise to pay.

Already the entire workforce of Chrysler Ryton have been laid off because of the shortage of plastic components from Hills Precision. This has started to spread to Stoke and Linwood. All Avenger production looks likely to grind to a halt and the small components from Autos will soon have an effect on Arrow production.

The company want Hills shop stewards to take the claim to national level. But this has been rejected. The company would not make an increased offer at the final works' conference.

The strike is going well. The picket line is well-manned with women workers playing an active role.

The lads at Autos returned to work on Thursday—but came out on strike again after management

## CHRYSLER: 600 fight for parity

failed to make an increased offer at a works conference on Tuesday.

Auto Machinery convenor Jim McGarry writes about the background to the Auto dispute:—

The last pay rise, conceded by the company on 1 April, was 7 per cent on the grade rate. At that meeting a clause was written into our agreement that when the Pay Board was abolished we would re-open negotiations on the Autos parity claim.

Before 27 July, we again registered our parity claim with the company. They replied with an offer of a one third step towards closing the differential. This was rejected by the negotiating committee, which then registered a formal failure to agree.

After a five-day wait for the confirmation of a date for a works conference, we contacted the AUEW and found that 6 September was the date confirmed. This was too long, and on being told, the committee called a mass meeting.

The date suggested by the unions was unanimously rejected. Strike action was proposed but the action was held while the senior stewards involved contacted the unions to get an immediate date for a works conference.

The AUEW replied that 20 August was no good because Frank Chater, divisional organiser, was on holiday, his deputy Andy Boyle was sick and another full-time official, Brother Butler, was fully booked for a fortnight.

After being told, the shop floor went on strike. The next day management arranged a works conference for Tuesday 20 August. The negotiating committee insisted on a final offer being given. Management agreed.

So on Monday this week a mass meeting voted to return to work pending a final offer at 10am. A mass meeting on Tuesday also considered the final offer.

As our mandate is parity, no less than this will be acceptable. The negotiating committee also protest most strongly at ASTMS sitting back watching us fight for more which they, too, benefit from.

## Now it's British Lie-land

LEYLAND, Lancs:—260 workers at British Leyland's BUTEC factory are now in the second week of their strike. The strikers, mainly women, members of the General and Municipal, the Engineers and the Electricians, are demanding parity with the five truck and bus plants in Leyland and Chorley. To get this they need increases of between £10 and £12 a week.

BUTEC make starter motors and are the sole suppliers of 100 amp alternators to the truck and bus section. Management used to claim that the lower pay at BUTEC was because they worked a different system. They were on measured day work while the big plant down the road still had piece work. But now that British Leyland has accepted measured day work that argument doesn't apply.

### Policy

So now the company say BUTEC isn't part of the combine. Funnily enough, when BUTEC put in for threshold payments management said they couldn't have them because they were part of the combine, and it was combine policy not to give threshold payments.

They have told the strikers that an increase has been awarded to them which will be paid from 16 September. But nobody will know how much it is unless they go back to work. This the strikers have rejected.

## Action over £15 claim

BIRMINGHAM:—A £15 pay claim by the shop stewards' negotiating committee at British Leyland Tractors and Transmissions has produced a management offer of £4—and sparked off industrial action.

Broken down, the overall increase would be only £1.74.

The response of a mass meeting called the next day was to institute an overtime ban, work-to-rule and a ban on any mobility of labour.

A meeting of direct workers the next day, Friday, heard the same resolution with the recommendation that the overtime ban etc should be implemented until other measures were adopted.

Convenor Arthur Harper called for a slow strangulation policy. If this didn't bite in the near future a one day stoppage each week should be adopted. The situation at the moment in the factory is that production is being lost through the work to rule. The situation will get worse due to the heat treatment not being carried out for two days a week.

## PAY DEAL HITS THE LOW - PAID

THE RECENT BBC pay offer, accepted by the unions representing all sections of the staff gives increases from £339 a year to around £1000 on top grades.

So the effect of this pay offer, consisting of 21 to 28 per cent across the board, is to widen substantially the gap between the highest and lowest paid.

This was received without protest from the union, Association of Broadcasting Staff, alleged to be representing the lower-paid workers.

Some journalists in Bush House objected that the deal was unfair to the lower paid. But a move to postpone acceptance of the offer until the weekly-paid staff's earnings were substantially increased was soundly defeated.

# THE ROLLS-ROYCE PHANTOM STRIKE

WILLESDEN:—Unofficial strike action by 400 Rolls Royce car workers has closed the Mulliner Park Ward division and stopped all work on the Rolls £18,800 Phantom VI limousine.

The basic issue is the two-year attempt by management to impose measured day work in the factories in High Road and Hyde Road,

Willesden. Workers have been moved from site to site so as to cut out bonuses.

Skilled workers returned from holiday two weeks ago to find seven new men had been moved into the finishing shop. Shop steward Terry Eagles called for a meeting over the lack of consultation and received a threatening letter from management at his home address.

A mass meeting on Monday 12 August called overwhelmingly for total strike action and pickets have been set up at the two sites and at Rolls Royce's main office in Conduit Street in London's West End.

This division of Rolls were making a profit of £1,000 a car recently. Skilled workers estimate that measured day work will mean a wage cut of £7 a week.

In case you are worried about your new model, production has also stopped on the Corniche convertible (£17,561) and the Silver Shadow (a mere £13,000).

## FORD: The 'quiet' dispute...

by a Halewood shop steward

THE three day week during the miners' battle convinced the rank and file here of the benefits of the shorter working week. We were never again going to tolerate Friday night working, the most socially disruptive shift (9.45pm until 6.30am Saturday).

So we struck against it.

The strike started on 29 April 1974. Since then Halewood has been joined by the Leamington Foundry plant. The strike, known as 'the quiet dispute' mainly because of the lack of coverage given to it by the capitalist press, has implications more far reaching than any other dispute at Halewood.

From the start, the rank and file led the dispute. The shop stewards' committee was left standing. One shop steward was heard to say 'the shop floor has taken the lead and we [the shop stewards' committee] must regain control'. Regaining control meant the holding back of the strike for a week.

The rank and file will not give any consideration to any offer other than four nights work and Friday night off. The convenors don't work nights. Ours is an indirect demand for a 35-hour week.

With the abolition of the Pay Board, this could lead to a direct demand for 35-hours work and 40 hours pay.

## Body Plant get tough

by Gareth Williams (shop steward 5510A)

DAGENHAM:—Once again lay-offs have hit the Body Plant because the company broke policies made with the trade union.

At about 4.30pm on Thursday 15 August, the plant manager assured the convenor there would be no lay-offs on Thursday or Friday night. However, at 10.50pm the body plant got laid off. A shop meeting immediately took place and two departments implemented plant policy by occupying the premises available for work.

On the Friday night 5510A shift held a short meeting. Because the company had broken the agreements, the lads went on strike until payment was granted for the Thursday night lay-off.

Another meeting on Monday morning, which resulted from the company's silence over payment, endorsed Friday night's policy to stay on strike and decided to lobby a stage 5 meeting between district officials and the company. Soon after we were told payment would be given for Thursday night.

We feel the company were pressurised into this decision of lay-offs because of a scab strike by the foreman, who have twice taken strike action to get one of our lads sacked.

We consider it is time the whole plant showed solidarity in this sort of issue.



PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

HEYWOOD, LANCS:—Workers at Salford Electrical Instruments, Times Mill, are involved in the third major confrontation at the factory in just over 12 months.

This time 400 AUEW women members are out over a dispute concerning bonus incentive payment. Although they are graded semi-skilled, the same as some men in the factory, they only receive 85 per cent on their bonus against the men's 150 per cent.

Also the women receive only £1.60 threshold pay though entitled to £2.80.

The attitude of the bosses in SEI part of the GEC combine towards their women workers appears to be consistent throughout the country. Only where workers are prepared to fight them are they willing to concede even the slightest increase.

Shop Steward Mrs J Brown summed up many of the strikers' feelings when she said: 'This place has got very militant in the last two years because of the stubborn attitude of the management. There are women in other engineering firms in this district getting far more than us.'

'After all we're only asking what we're entitled to. We've never had a

## 'COLDITZ' WOMEN GO OVER THE WALL

dispute like this, the women have woken up and realised it's time for us to stop being cheap labour.'

Negotiations on bonus have been going on for over a year. But patience can only last so long and things started to come to a head after the recent annual holidays. The women decided to reject working under the old piece-work system. They declared 'day work'.

### ACTION

The management allowed a ten minute break every hour but the women, fed up with the bosses' attitude, decided to reverse the procedure—they worked only ten minutes in every hour!

After 2½ weeks of this action, management demanded a return to the previous working arrangement. Failure to adhere to this instruction saw the management 'clock-off' one of the workers. The rest of the women on the shop

floor walked out in support of their colleague.

During the war the premises were used as a prisoner of war camp. One picket commented: 'Come to Colditz, we're not allowed to talk, we have to sit sideways at our benches and say nothing—just work, work, work.'

Alec Hope, the AUEW convenor, has already contacted the parent SEI factory at Eccles to win support for the dispute: 'The pickets are up and we'll stay until we win', said Bella Fullard, chairman of the branch.

'As for the blacklegs, the bosses can make up their minds: either employ them (there are about 30) or us, if a settlement over the bonus is reached.'

When Brian White, Managing Director of SEI, arrived he was jeered and heckled by the pickets. It is doubtful, however, if any kind of action other than all-out solidarity within SEI will win the dispute and soften 'hard hearted Brian'.

# Film-in wins support

LONDON:-The Soho film-in opposite the Dean Street rooms Karl Marx once occupied grew in strength this week.

The film production workers from De Lane Lea studios, who are guarding £250,000 worth of sound equipment to prevent the studio's closure, marched last week to the Piccadilly HQ of British Electric Traction, the corporation threatening the closure.

The film workers are trying to put the squeeze on other subsidiaries of BET, who have their finger in commercial television, property and North Sea oil. Support has come from workers at Humphries film process, also owned by BET.

And the General Council of the Association of Cinematograph and Television Technicians has asked members in Thames TV to black-out commercial TV programmes to force BET to give a cast iron guarantee that De Lane Lea stays open.

Support has also come from the Coliseum Opera House, where make-up girls have staged lightning strikes.

Messages of support to: The Joint Trade Union Committee, the De Lane Lea Studios, 75 Dean Street, London W1.

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

# WE CARRY ON!

## Pay beds ban must stay, insist hospital workers

TRADE UNIONISTS at Hammersmith Hospital in West London, Britain's top postgraduate centre, emphatically confirmed on Tuesday their determination to withdraw services from the hospital's private beds.

The hospital workers, who began the ban on Monday, have already been under terrific pressure from the hospital administration, the press and, most treacherously, the full-time officials of NUPE, who took the credit for the Charing Cross Hospital action against private patients but have since instructed their members to drop direct action 'pending an inquiry'.

But the Hammersmith workers have refused to bend. They declined to admit to their mass meeting a District Hospital administrator who wanted to talk to the branch and they also

ejected a Fleet Street reporter who smuggled himself in. His notebook was confiscated.

The full-time officials who had invited themselves to the meeting either failed to turn up or supported the action.

The hospital workers have always been anxious to direct their campaign against part-time consultants. Chris Longworth, acting branch secretary, who is a porter from the Nurses Home, stressed that the union had repeatedly asked the hospital administration for serious talks on moving the private patients and for information

which would enable them to operate a selective ban against the patients of the part-timers.

But the authorities have refused to negotiate. 'The administration's obstructive attitude has got up people's noses,' said another NUPE member. 'They still can't bring themselves to take us seriously. They don't mind talking to us, as long as they get their own way. Well, it's not on.'

The meeting overwhelmingly voted for an immediate and total ban on all Hammersmith's private patients. The hospital workers are now concerned to make the ban watertight and will be using information gleaned from the switch-board, the kitchens, nurses and junior doctors to spot the private patients which the consultants smuggle in.

### PRIVATE WORK

A leaflet to all NHS patients will explain the action and ask for their support in detecting private patients. Jon Godfrey, a GMWU steward from the Whittington Hospital in North London, where a private patient ban has been successfully operating for two months, told the meeting:

'We now have a real chance that the ban will catch on over the rest of the London hospitals. And London is where most private work is located.'

Bill Geddes, the absent branch secretary at Hammersmith, had been right to say before he went on holiday that trade unionists all over Britain will look with admiration at the Hammersmith hospital workers' courage in taking up the London private patient gauntlet once again.

Their health service . . . and ours: See Centre Pages.



Some of the 400 trade unionists at the factory gate meeting in support of the nurses.

## Nurses get big backing

By Lynn Pedley, TASS,

Tractors Transmissions, Birmingham NURSES from High Croft hospital, North Birmingham have now forged links with local trade unionists. Following a 24-hour unofficial strike, they were determined to keep up the aggression in their campaign for decent wages and conditions.

A recent meeting of leading local shop stewards heard NUPE and COHSE speakers from High Croft. The call was made by the nurses for fellow trade unionists to support their claim.

Peter Holmes, a NUPE branch

secretary from Solihull hospital, stressed the importance of linking militants in different hospitals together and the role that the paper Hospital Worker could play in organising rank and file feeling.

The meeting enthusiastically backed the call to take the nurses case back into the factories and trade unions to win active support.

The first factory gate meeting was held two days later on 16 August at British Leyland Tractors and Transmission plant in North Birmingham. More than 400 trade unionists supported the meeting.

Convenor Arthur Harper opened

the meeting by saying the health service was important to every worker. He quoted the fact that 540 workers from Tractors had spent some time in hospital in the last year.

### Action

Gerry Phillips, a COHSE shop steward explained how nurses, after three years' training, got £20 a week. If the Halsbury inquiry failed to come up with a substantial increase, further action would have to be taken.

John McAleer, a NUPE shop steward, said: 'Everyone here today

will need attention in hospital at some time—so it's up to all trade unionists to take action to get a decent health service.'

Several other nurses spoke and Gordon Vaughan, AUEW convenor at Leyland's body plant in North Birmingham pledged support. The message from the meeting was clear: The nurses are tired of waiting for their pay offer. Workers from Tractors unanimously accepted the motion of full support for the nurses. As a result, several factories and trade union branches will be holding meetings in the next few weeks with nurses speaking.

## SHOCK FOR THE SPARKS

THE electricians and plumbers who keep the power flowing in hospitals are in for a shock.

After a two-year battle for parity with the contracting industry—a battle which has included two national unofficial one-day stoppages, a 400 strong lobby of Hayes Court, the EEPTU HQ, and an invasion of the Department of Health HQ—they have finally had their rates brought into line.

Only the settlement, concluded in secret by the EEPTU and AUEW, and accepted by the T&G and G&M, has been done on the cheap and without even the pretence of consultation with the men who have been doing the fighting.

'Parity' has been achieved by incorporating the £2.40 won as a threshold payment into the new basic rate. The craftsmen thereby forfeit

all further threshold payments, which other ancillary staff grades will continue to pick up.

Differentials between craftsmen and labourers actually widen by £1 and the apprentice rates have gone 'up' to the princely gross of £14.12.

## Fight on for threshold

MANY groups of workers are still fighting to get threshold payments.

400 women and 12 men have been on strike at Fuflex, Pontyminster in Cardiff for four weeks for a full threshold payment.

Initially management refused to pay a £1.20 claim. Later they conceded this, only to refuse to pay 80p extra which then became due.

At Higgs and Hill's Southampton General Hospital building site, the management are trying a similar trick.

They are trying to cut wages, so the threshold won't cost them anything.

The craftsmen were the first group of workers off the site. They struck last Monday after Higgs and Hill declared they would only guarantee 25p an hour bonus instead of the 32½p they were paying. The bricklayers, scaffolders and labourers joined the strike the next day.

And in West Bromwich and Tipton, seven factories in the Triplex Foundries Group, involving 1,400 workers, are out on strike over management's refusal to pay the second £1.20 threshold payment.

Flying pickets are being organised to stop two other factories in the group.

Shop stewards are hoping this show of solidarity will prepare Triplex workers for future struggles against a management renowned for low pay and disrespect for working conditions.

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